United Nations S/PV.6959

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6959th meeting
Thursday, 2 May 2013, 11.35 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Menan	(Togo)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Ms. King
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Tian Lin
	France	Mr. Briens
	Guatemala	Mr. Briz Gutiérrez
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 19 April 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2013/239)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

13-32073 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Eugène-Richard Gasana, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of April 2013. I am sure that I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Gasana and his team for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 19 April 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2013/239)

The President (*spoke in French*): Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Somalia to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2013/259, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Australia, France, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/239, which contains a letter dated 19 April 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the results of the Secretary-General's technical assessment mission to Somalia, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2093 (2013).

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, China, France, Guatemala, Luxembourg, Morocco, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President (*spoke in French*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2102 (2013).

I now give the floor to the representative of Somalia.

Mr. Duale (Somalia): I fully appreciate the fact that the Council has invited me to be present here today and to witness the adoption of this new and very important resolution 2102 (2013), which, I believe, provides real support for my new Government and facilitates the achievement of its policy of developing Somalia in the areas of, inter alia, governance and security.

Mr. President, allow me also to thank your predecessor as well as the incoming Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Nicholas Kay, and to express my appreciation and thanks to Mr. Mahiga, the outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for a job well done.

I believe that the resolution just adopted ensures that the first steps of the process of support by the United Nations and the Security Council in particular will be truly effective, especially with the proposed United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), which ensures that Somalia and the Government of Somalia will now have only one door for dialogue and for support.

We appreciate the Secretary-General's letter and report (S/2013/239), which ushered in this very important resolution, which we fully endorse. My Government has already expressed its appreciation for the Secretary-General's letter and report.

We are also confident that the Security Council, the international community and all other partners in the development of Somalia's future will abide by what is clearly expressed here — that the sovereignty of Somalia and the ownership of every action belong to the Federal Government of Somalia, while at the same time the regional authorities must also be consulted. We welcome the emphasis on coordination and urgent action, and we hope in particular that the conference to be held in London on 7 May will enable us to garner some resources, both human and financial, so that the Government of Somalia can implement its mandates, in cooperation and coordination with UNSOM and our international partners.

That said, I hope that we will soon see, within the year we have been granted by the Security Council in which to report back, that this year will bring the opening of opportunities for Somalia's development.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6960

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6960th meeting
Monday, 6 May 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Menan	(Togo)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Ms. King
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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13-32326 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The President (*spoke in French*): Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rule of procedure, I invite Ms. Mary Robinson, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Ms. Robinson, who is joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Dublin.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Ms. Robinson.

Ms. Robinson: I am pleased and honoured to have this opportunity to speak to the Council this morning, following my first visit to the Great Lakes since being appointed on 18 March as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the region. The Council's role in new efforts to forge peace will be crucial, and it has already taken important decisions. I look forward to close consultation with the Council and to its strong support moving forward.

The reason I accepted the responsibility of Special Envoy is because I know this to be one of the longest enduring, most appalling human rights, women's rights, children's rights and humanitarian crises, with levels of death, violence and suffering that are totally unacceptable. This time we have to tackle it differently and sustain the political will.

I believe we meet at a moment of renewed opportunity. There is a fresh chance to do more than just attend to the consequences of conflict or to manage crises of the kind seen again most recently last November. There is a chance to resolve its underlying causes and to stop it for good. Hope and possibility must now infuse what will be a very challenging process to implement the Framework for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February under the auspices of the Secretary-General.

There are reasons to hope that the new Framework can work. For one, it represents a comprehensive agreement requiring actions at all levels, by all who have responsibilities — nationally, regionally and internationally. It includes mechanisms of oversight, both in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the region, to ensure that benchmarks are set and met. It has the support of 11 nations and the involvement of the four organizations that are its witnesses. It has emerged at this time precisely as a result of exhaustion with the continuing cycles of crises and a broad realization that there is a need for a new approach.

That is why, as I made my first visit in this capacity to the region, last week, I described that agreement as a framework of hope. For if this new attempt is to succeed where others have fallen short, there must be optimism and courage in place of cynicism. The Governments and the peoples of the region and the international community must believe once again that peace can be achieved and must take the necessary actions to obtain it. As that process advances, it must bring hope to the people who are the victims and who will ultimately be its beneficiaries.

As I carried that message with me around the region, I also made it clear that my approach as Special Envoy would be different. I will of course focus much of my energies on engaging with the leaders and the Governments of the region in order to build trust and help them translate their commitments into tangible plans and actions for peace. At the same time, I will also be working from the bottom up. I will be engaging with civil society, as I believe it will be essential to generate the broadest possible constituency for the agreement. If people are engaged and take ownership of the process, they can become a strong force for implementation. I believe this new effort will have a chance only if many partners are coordinated and pushing in the same direction.

I have summarized this personal vision of the Framework and my approach as Special Envoy in a document entitled "A framework of hope". I am sharing it with the Council today, as I did with all my interlocutors during my trip to the region. It reflects my own sense of the spirit of the agreement and how I can contribute most effectively to its implementation.

Having made those introductory comments, let me turn now to a more detailed summary of my recent

visit, before leaving the Council with some concluding remarks.

Between 28 April and 5 May, I visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo — both Kinshasa and Goma — Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and South Africa. I would have liked to have visited the other countries signatories to the Framework agreement but, regrettably, time and other scheduling constraints did not permit. Where I was unable to do so, I wrote to the leaders concerned and indicated that I would visit more countries during subsequent trips to the region in the coming months.

During my first visit to the region, I met with Presidents Kabila Kabange, Museveni and Nkurunziza, and had a long telephone conversation with President Kagame, who was out of the country. I also met with the Governor of North Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Paluku, and the Minister of Defence of Uganda, Mr. Kiyonga, in his capacity as facilitator of the Kampala talks between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Mouvement du 23 mars (M-23). I met with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Ms. Dlamini-Zuma, her Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, Ambassador Diarra, and the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Mr. Ntumba Luaba.

In all the countries I visited, I also held extensive meetings with United Nations entities, including the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Office in Burundi, the country teams, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the diplomatic corps and the donor community.

Finally, in each place, I expanded my consultations to include civil society, in the broad sense of the term, and even more so women's groups, with whom I intend to work closely to implement my mandate.

I would like to state my heartfelt appreciation to all the officials and actors that I met during my visit, for their very warm welcome and their expression of support for my future activities as Special Envoy.

The purpose of my visit to the region was threefold: first, to seek the views of leaders and others on the implementation of the Framework, particularly on the establishment of the oversight mechanisms and the development of benchmarks for the commitments of signatories; secondly, to encourage participation in the first meeting of the "11+4" oversight mechanism, planned for 26 May on the margins of the African Union jubilee summit, in Addis Ababa; and, thirdly, to share my vision and approach for the Framework, which I shared with the Council at the outset of this briefing.

While I was familiar with the issues and knew most of the leaders in the Great Lakes region before assuming my position, I undertook the visit in my new capacity first and foremost to listen to the concerns of those on the ground affected by the crisis in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from the leadership to the ordinary citizens. I had frank and warm discussions with all my interlocutors. During my meetings with each leader and Government official from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries, we discussed in detail their commitments as outlined in the Framework, and I stressed that they should be fulfilled. I called upon civil society groups to encourage their Governments to respect their commitments and to hold them accountable. Equally important, I stressed that the implementation of the Framework was a shared responsibility and that success would be predicated upon each and every party living up to their commitments, given the monumental challenges ahead of us.

My visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in particular took place against the backdrop of tensions produced by M-23 statements in reaction to the upcoming deployment of the Intervention Brigade. In Kinshasa and Goma, the overwhelming majority of the Congolese I spoke to were enthusiastic about the deployment of the Brigade — a feeling that is understandable. I stressed at the same time that the Intervention Brigade, while an important tool, should be seen as one element of a much larger political process aimed at finding a comprehensive solution to the crisis in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Although at an apparent stalemate for now, the Kampala talks are also part of the efforts towards a regional peace initiative, and I called on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to remain committed to that process with a view to expediting it as soon as possible. The current focus on the Intervention Brigade, which in my view should act mostly preventively, as a deterrent, with limited strategic military operations, needs to be put in context to minimize potential adverse impacts. It would be vital

that it operate in full compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law and with maximal consideration for the protection of civilians. Many in the humanitarian community, as well as officials in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, expressed concerns about the need to manage the potential consequences of the military operations. I am glad to note that MONUSCO is already undertaking mitigating measures in that regard.

President Kabila informed me that his Government was working on a plan of action for the implementation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's commitments under the Framework, including on the composition and modalities of work of the national oversight mechanism. I stressed the importance of the inclusiveness of such a national mechanism, which should involve civil society representatives and have the necessary expertise to play an effective supervisory role. Both President Kabila and his Minister for Foreign Affairs assured me that at least the architecture of the national oversight mechanism would be ready for the first meeting of the 11+4, to be held in Addis Ababa on 26 May.

I am also glad to report some encouraging news at the regional level. As with President Kabila, I had frank discussions with Presidents Museveni, Kagame and Nkurunziza. All three stated their readiness to implement their commitments under the Framework and, as I said earlier, expressed support for my mandate as Special Envoy. It is encouraging to see that the leaders in the region, particularly Presidents Kabila and Kagame, continue to talk to each other, either bilaterally or through the ICGLR.

In Kampala, I had fruitful discussions with President Museveni and the facilitator of the Kampala talks, Minister of Defence Crispus Kiyonga. They both underlined that the dialogue remains a viable avenue to end the crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. While recognizing progress on key points of the agenda of the dialogue, they spoke of stalemate in others, particularly on the issues of amnesty, integration and disarmament. We exchanged views on how to move the process forward.

The ICGLR has played and continues to play a very important role under the leadership of its Chair, President Museveni. The regional initiatives have helped mitigate the impact of the crisis, and it is important that the international community, including the Security Council, acknowledge that role if we want to make progress under the renewed partnership to end the crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, as clearly spelled out in the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. I intend to work closely with my African Union and ICGLR partners in Bujumbura and Addis Ababa to ensure that we have a coordinated and concerted approach.

It is important that the people in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Great Lakes region as a whole, feel that there is a peace dividend to enjoy. There is room for further regional economic cooperation provided that trust is restored between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbours. I was told that the last summit of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), which includes Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, was held almost 20 years ago. President Nkurunziza, who will host a CEPGL ministerial meeting next week in Burundi, has pledged to continue his efforts to revitalize that regional economic institution. As I was departing Kigali, Rwandan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Louise Mushikiwabo, was flying to Kinshasa for consultations on joint economic projects and other peace and security matters. Those economic consultations had been underway prior to the straining of their relations due to the past year's crisis.

In discussions in Pretoria with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, I learned about encouraging measures that the South African Government has taken or plans to take to boost its economic partnership with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its assistance to Kinshasa in sectors such as governance, agriculture, infrastructure and revenue collection. The good will of South Africa was confirmed in a telephone conversation with the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, and in a meeting with the Minister of the Presidency, Mr. Collins Chabane. They confirmed the strong support of President Zuma, who was on his way back from a meeting in Congo-Brazzaville at the time.

Those bilateral and trilateral economic initiatives are positive steps that could greatly contribute to the restoration of trust between the countries of the region. We need to support them, and I am very glad that already there is good will from the donor community and the international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank, to help the Great Lakes region.

Looking ahead, as mentioned earlier, the African Union and the United Nations will be organizing the first meeting of the 11+4 oversight mechanism on 26 May in Addis Ababa. Between now and then, I will be working on a concept paper, to be presented to regional leaders, on how this regional oversight mechanism and its supporting technical committee might operate. I am aware that given the short amount of time and the important events of the jubilee itself, the meeting may only take the process a small way forward. However, I intend to continue consultations with each and every signatory of the Framework on that matter, so as to present an approved set of benchmarks to the next meeting of the 11+4 oversight mechanism at the General Assembly in September. Just after the Addis Ababa meeting, on 26 May, I will head to Paris to attend a meeting of the International Contact Group on the Great Lakes Region on 28 May. I intend to encourage participants to coordinate their efforts more in support of the Great Lakes region.

I am heartened that President Museveni will organize a Summit of the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region, probably in July, to take stock of the recent developments and define ways in which the region intends to work with the signatories and partners of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. In the meantime, building on current initiatives and existing regional forums, including on a regional plan of action for resolution 1325 (2000) of my African sister, Bineta Diop, of Femmes Africa Solidarité, I intend to mobilize the women of the Great Lakes countries to play an active role in support of the Framework. I also intend to work closely with the concerned authorities in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross to encourage the organization of a dedicated working meeting on refugees at a date to be determined. Finally, I am already planning my second visit to the region later this month.

Let me conclude by reminding us of the tragic history that remains inescapably attached to this problem — one that still scars the Great Lakes and this very institution of the United Nations, and one that also fuels my own personal commitment to this assignment. Next year will mark the twentieth anniversary of the genocidal killings in Rwanda of 1994. I reflected about that last week when visiting the genocide memorial site in Kigali. As President of Ireland, I was the first Head of State to visit Rwanda in 1994 in the aftermath of the genocide. In the Hotel Mille Collines, where I stayed, there were still walls stained with blood. In 1995, I spoke of those horrors at the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, because it was a reality that had to be confronted.

Only three years after that first visit after the genocide, I was back in Rwanda, attending a vibrant pan-African women's conference in a nation that was already on the mend and moving forward. Yet two decades later, that past is not yet fully behind us. Its echoes remain present in the horrific, cyclical violence that continues to deprive so many of the secure and peaceful lives they deserve. In this framework of hope, we have an opportunity to get it right — to bring peace, security and development at long last to the region and its people. Now is the time to begin translating its broad commitment into tangible actions for peace.

There are no guarantees that this new push for peace will succeed. However, we can be sure that, if it fails, the consequences will be grave. We can also be sure that, however determined I am personally to this challenging assignment, the new push for peace will not succeed through the efforts of one person or one brigade, or any other action taken in isolation. No — it will require an all-out concerted series of actions that are both serious and sustained, at the national, regional and international levels. It will require doing things differently, doing them better and not stopping until the job is finished.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ms. Robinson for her briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6961

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6961st meeting
Tuesday, 7 May 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Menan	(Togo)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Estreme
	Australia	Ms. King
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	France	Mr. Briens
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

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13-32509 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

The President (*spoke in French*): Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Leonid Kozhara, Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. Kozhara.

Mr. Kozhara: I am very pleased and honoured to address the Security Council today as Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

With its comprehensive approach to security and in view of its geographical scope, which stretches from Vancouver to Vladivostok, the OSCE enjoys a unique position among all other regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Our organization is a strong partner of the United Nations in promoting international peace and security in its area. It is a great responsibility for me personally and for Ukraine to guide the OSCE towards the implementation of a shared vision of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, as set forth in the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration.

The year 2015 marks four decades since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. We strongly believe that that anniversary should serve as a catalyst for re-energizing the organization. The OSCE needs to retain the political momentum provided by the Astana Summit. The "Helsinki+40" process, initiated last year in Dublin, seems to be a promising framework in that respect.

The Ukrainian chairmanship will facilitate the Helsinki+40 dialogue, which is focused on overcoming divergences and clarifying the role and goals of the OSCE in the modern security architecture.

In the context of the OSCE chairmanship, Ukraine has set ambitious goals, with a number of priorities across the three dimensions of security.

With regard to the politico-military dimension, we aim to update and modernize the OSCE's politico-military instruments. We remain strongly engaged with the United Nations Group of Friends of Mediation and attach great importance to the updating of confidence- and security-building measures. During our chairmanship, the organization will continue to be actively engaged with the United Nations, and we will facilitate the development of an OSCE mediation-support capacity.

The Ukrainian chairmanship contributes fully to the continued efforts of the United Nations in the promotion of global security and peace. The achievement of progress in finding a sustainable, long-term solution to the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area is at the top of its agenda.

Ukraine is strongly determined to contribute to the Transdniestrian settlement process. We call for the constructive engagement of all participants in the "5+2" talks so as to move forward in solving the existing social and economic problems and achieving a comprehensive political settlement.

We are convinced that direct dialogue between the political leadership of Chisinau and Tiraspol is crucial. We have been doing our utmost to promote and to facilitate it, encouraging both leaderships to engage constructively in the negotiation process.

Ukraine fully supports the work under way within the framework of the Geneva international discussions aimed at resolving security and humanitarian issues in the area of conflict in Georgia. We highly appreciate the input of the United Nations to that process and welcome the existing level of coordination among the three co-chairing organizations.

The Ukrainian chairmanship lends its full support to the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in assisting the parties to find a peaceful solution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. During my visit to the South Caucuses in June, I intend to support the call of the co-chairs for more active engagement in the negotiations.

Developments in South-Eastern Europe are a focus for our organization throughout the year. The European Union-led dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina has

opened new prospects for normalization in that part of the region.

The OSCE welcomes the Brussels agreement of 19 April. The leadership in Belgrade and Pristina should be commended for their courage and vision in reaching it. I welcome the continuation of that dialogue. Where possible, the OSCE will provide support in line with its mandate.

Conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures constitute an important part of common efforts to strengthen peace and stability in the OSCE area. As a strong advocate of non-proliferation, Ukraine, together with Poland, Belarus and Kazakhstan, introduced the draft of the updated 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-proliferation. That work is expected to be finalized before the Kyiv OSCE Ministerial Council meeting, to be held on 5 and 6 December.

Let me also draw the Council's attention to two memorandums of understanding that were signed between the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, namely, on developing a partnership on peace and disarmament initiatives and on promoting the regional implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004).

We deem it necessary to pay particular attention to the OSCE response to transnational threats. In that regard, we see particular merit in deepening cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. A joint action plan for 2013-2014 was recently signed with the latter.

Security, political and economic transitions in Afghanistan, as well as the withdrawal of international security forces in 2014, will continue to have security implications for the OSCE area. As OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, we are proceeding to further explore areas that require enhanced interaction with Afghanistan and improved coordination with the relevant international actors.

Exchanging military information and contacts, in particular in border areas close to Afghanistan, is of paramount importance. The OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe plays a major role in that field. It has trained more than 1,000 border experts, from 38 OSCE participating States and partners, including almost 400 Afghan border professionals.

Within the economic and environmental dimension, the core theme of the Ukrainian chairmanship is increasing stability and security by improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities. We are also exploring how the OSCE could provide added value and play a role in the development of new trade and transport corridors. In both areas, we see great potential for building on existing cooperation with the United Nations.

The Ukrainian chairmanship is convinced that our commitment to the human dimension of security is, and should remain, at the core of the concept of comprehensive security. The fight against trafficking in human beings remains one of the key issues addressed by the OSCE under the Ukrainian chairmanship. We continue to pursue a comprehensive, human rights-based approach to this global crime — in close cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights — within the OSCE-initiated Alliance against Trafficking in Persons and on a bilateral basis under the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. In that respect, the chairmanship will organize an international conference on combating trafficking in human beings, to be held in June in Kyiv.

Further priorities in that dimension include strengthening the freedom of media. A human rights seminar in Warsaw will address the topic of best practices for crafting legal frameworks to establish and safeguard free, independent and pluralistic media.

We will also strive to achieve progress in the areas of the free movement of people, the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, the freedom of association and assembly, inter-religious dialogue in promoting freedom of religion or belief, as well as democratic elections and election observation.

Finally, we attach particular attention to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination through youth education. In that regard, we plan to host an OSCE youth summit this summer in Crimea, Ukraine.

Before I conclude, let me once again stress the value of cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations. A number of our chairmanship's priorities coincide with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Five-Year Action Agenda. That is especially true with

regard to early warning and early action in preventing violent conflicts, building a safer and more secure world, and supporting nations in transition.

The United Nations is the OSCE's principal partner organization. As security challenges continue to evolve, the nature of OSCE-United Nations cooperation has to become more pragmatic, effective and results-oriented. We look forward to even closer cooperation with the United Nations and count on the Council's full support in the months ahead.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Kozhara for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We welcome the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kozhara, and we thank him for his detailed statement.

The Russian Federation has consistently called for cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE to be scaled up on the basis of the 2006 declaration in that regard. We feel that the OSCE successfully complements the work of the United Nations in a number of areas, as clearly reflected in the fight against transnational threats, such as terrorism, illegal drug-trafficking and organized crime. The OSCE is making a significant contribution to implementing the basic United Nations conventions in those and other areas.

We welcome the cooperation between the OSCE secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna. We value the results of the first month of the Ukrainian chairmanship of the OSCE. To a great extent, the priorities set out for the organization for the coming overlap with those of the Russian Federation. We stand ready to provide the Ukrainian chairmanship with the necessary assistance.

We, too, believe in the need to strengthen the conventional arms control regime. Further negotiations in that area should be conducted without preconditions, politicization or attempts to prejudge the outcomes.

We welcome the intention of Ukraine to assist in the settlement of conflicts in existing negotiation formats and by fully upholding the interests of parties to the conflict. We support the intention to scale up the combat against trafficking in human beings. We believe that an integral part of that effort should be to prevent the trafficking in human organs and tissues.

As an active participant in the OSCE, the Russian Federation hopes that Ukraine will strictly comply with the chairmanship mandate set forth in the decision of the OSCE Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Porto in 2002, and take fully into account the views and interests of all States participants. It is important to concentrate on establishing a unifying agenda and on bringing OSCE countries together on the basis of shared goals and objectives.

With respect to Russia's priorities for the OSCE, we note that the most important objective is reforming the organization so as to address imbalances in its work and make it a fully-fledged international organization. Along those lines, the OSCE could draw upon the experience of the United Nations in institution-building. First and foremost, a legally binding charter and procedures for the participation of non-governmental organizations in OSCE events could be drawn up.

We support Ukraine's intention to develop the "Helsinki+40" process, which should bolster the OSCE through the forthcoming fortieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015. A document should be drawn up that would not be run-of-the-mill, but rather breathe new life into the implementation of agreements set forth in the Final Act and other fundamental documents of the OSCE.

We attach great importance to the efforts of the OSCE to counter terrorism and illegal drug trafficking. We hope to see cooperation with the United Nations in the context of the OSCE conference on the matter in Vienna in 2013. We support the implementation of OSCE obligations in the area of freedom of movement, in particular with respect to the liberalization of visa regimes.

We attach great importance to the observation of elections. We believe that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights must carry out its monitoring functions in similar conditions in all OSCE countries across the board. We support the conduct of a comparative analysis of electoral laws and the drawing up of monitoring standards. We count on the organization to conduct a seminar on that very matter this year.

We attach particular importance to the efforts being made to protect the rights of national, religious and

linguistic minorities and in combating manifestations of statelessness in Latvia and Estonia. We are convinced that the OSCE will make an important contribution to combating aggressive nationalism, neo-Nazism and neo-fascism.

We believe that, in the context of the economic crisis, the OSCE must more actively take up matters touching upon the social and economic aspects of human rights.

We hope that all of the aforementioned topics will take their due place in the OSCE agenda for 2013 and be reflected in the documents of the meeting of the OSCE Ministers for Foreign Affairs to take place in Kiev on 5 and 6 December.

We hope that the approach of the Ukrainian chairmanship set forth by Foreign Minister Kozhara today will help to overcome the crisis of recent years in the OSCE and adapt the organization to new global realities. Russia stands fully ready to constructively cooperate with the Ukrainian chairmanship and other OSCE participants in that matter.

Ms. King (Australia): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's briefing. I would like to thank Foreign Minister Kozhara for his briefing and welcome him to the Security Council for the first time in his capacity as Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

As the world's largest regional security organization, the OSCE has much to offer the Council, particularly its expertise in arms control, counter-terrorism, conflict prevention and post-conflict resolution. As members of the Council are aware, close cooperation between the Council and regional organizations, including the OSCE, can be a decisive component of our efforts to maintain international peace and security. It is clear that one of Australia's priorities during its term on the Council is to further encourage such cooperation, and the OSCE provides a good illustration of what is possible.

To point to one example, Australia acknowledges the OSCE's strong contribution to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, where it leads the important third pillar of democratization and institution-building. We join the OSCE in commending the leadership in both Belgrade and Pristina for the recent positive steps they have taken towards normalizing their relationship.

Australia enjoys a strong partnership with the OSCE. As an Asia partner country of the OSCE since 2009, we work through the organization to address security challenges that span borders. Australia supports OSCE projects designed to enhance local, national and regional capacities to combat the effects of human trafficking and help protect vulnerable groups in Central Asia, which we are pleased to hear is among the priorities of the OSCE under Ukraine's chairmanship.

In March, Australia was pleased to co-chair the 2013 OSCE Conference of Asian Partners for Cooperation, which took place in Australia. Under the theme "Improving the Security of Women and Girls", the Conference brought together Government and civil society to examine the successes and failings of international efforts in the fight against gender-based violence and human trafficking, as well as efforts to increase the economic empowerment of women. That reinforces the work of the Council on the women and peace and security agenda and the priority that we attach to that work.

Australia also endorses the OSCE vision of comprehensive security that includes the integral role of human rights and economic and environmental issues alongside the politico-military dimension. Protecting and empowering people is essential to shaping long-term and effective responses to multidimensional threats to security. It builds capacity, understanding and resilience among individuals and communities.

Australia congratulates the OSCE on its long-standing commitment to non-proliferation. We commend the OSCE leadership in preventing the spread of illicit small arms and light weapons among its members and beyond to regions that face conflict and instability. That leadership contributed to the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2001.

The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by the General Assembly on 2 April was another significant development in that area, and we appreciate the contribution of the OSCE membership to the achievement of a strong outcome. Effective implementation of the ATT will now be critical to preventing the illegal and irresponsible trade in arms and reducing human suffering. We look to the OSCE once again to play a leading role in ensuring the signature of the Treaty by its members on 3 June and its

effective implementation within the OSCE region and others that need implementation support.

I thank Mr. Kozhara for his observations on Afghanistan. Along with other members of the Council and the international community, Australia is committed to Afghanistan's long-term stability, security and prosperity, which will in turn benefit from the constructive engagement and support of its neighbours. Australia supports efforts to that end, including regional confidence-building measures through the Heart of Asia initiative. We welcome the OSCE's continued constructive contribution to international efforts to support Afghanistan's security and stability.

Australia also shares with the OSCE and other members of the Council an abhorrence of terrorism and a determination to combat that threat wherever it occurs. The OSCE's counter-terrorism work is impressive. Australia welcomes the organization's cooperation with United Nations agencies, has been pleased to support a number of OSCE counter-terrorism projects, and wishes to build on that partnership. We appreciate the determination and international cooperation that the OSCE brings to the global stand against terrorist ideologies and tactics.

In conclusion, close engagement between the Council and regional organizations is an essential component of securing international peace and security, and we encourage the Council to continue to look for opportunities to work closely with the OSCE in that endeavour.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): Sir, I congratulate you on assuming the office of the President of the Security Council for the month of May. We also thank Ambassador Eugène-Richard Gasana for his effective presidency of the Council last month. We offer our thanks and best wishes to both teams.

We thank Mr. Leonid Kozhara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), for his comprehensive briefing and for sharing with us the vision and programme of work of his organization.

The OSCE, representing 57 States in Europe, Central Asia and North America, has been a pillar of strength for regional peace and security. Its best practices in early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management are being emulated by other regional organizations. The three dimensions of the OSCE's work — political-military, economic and environmental, and human — provide the best tools for a comprehensive response to security situations.

The United Nations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of its Charter, co-opts regional organizations for the maintenance of international peace and security and the pacific settlement of disputes. In the past, the United Nations and the OSCE have complemented each other's efforts aimed at conflict prevention, confidence- and security-building, mediation, crisis management and post-conflict stabilization.

During the Cold War, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the OSCE's predecessor, played an important role by providing a forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West. Following the end of the Cold War, the OSCE contributed to managing the transition in Europe and dealing with post-Cold War challenges. We appreciate the important role the OSCE is currently playing in facilitating various processes aimed at settling crises and conflicts in its region. They include the Transdniestrian settlement process, the Geneva international discussions on Georgia, and the OSCE Minsk Group co-Chairs assisting Azerbaijan and Armenia in finding a peaceful solution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. We also welcome the European Union-led dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. The OSCE's role in support of that dialogue is very important.

The OSCE's initiatives on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control are producing results. We also greatly appreciate its work in countering transnational threats such as human and narcotics trafficking, terrorism and cyber-crime.

The United Nations and the OSCE have similar priorities in the economic and environmental areas, as well as with respect to sustainable energy for all. What we need is more synergy and closer coordination between the two organizations. We believe that the OSCE's successes in these fields are relevant to South Asia and many other regions.

The human dimension is equally important. The OSCE's focus on young people and children is geared towards forward-looking solutions for more developed, educated and tolerant societies. We particularly appreciate its activities in Afghanistan in building the capacity of the Afghan National Police, combating

drug trafficking and strengthening customs and border management. Pakistan strongly believes that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan will help its people rediscover their destiny, consolidate their polity and rebuild their economy. As the international security forces prepare to withdraw by 2014, the OSCE's continued engagement with Afghanistan will have a positive impact on the four transitions under way in the security, reconciliation, electoral and economic areas. We particularly welcome the Chair's intention to explore further areas of cooperation for capacity-building in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, we wish Ukraine a very successful chairmanship of the OSCE. We take note of its priorities, and hope that under its stewardship the organization will continue its important work in areas ranging from hard security issues to sustainable economic development and the promotion and protection of human rights.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I join previous speakers in welcoming Mr. Leonid Kozhara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, to the Security Council, and in thanking him for briefing us on his priorities for 2013 in his capacity as Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Now with 57 States members, the OSCE occupies a unique place among the regional organizations with which the United Nations is called upon to cooperate under Chapter VIII of its Charter. It has an important role to play in settling conflicts and promoting human rights in Europe and Central Asia. Mongolia's recent accession to OSCE membership illustrates the organization's ongoing appeal beyond Europe's borders.

As an OSCE member, Luxembourg fully supports the Ukrainian chairmanship's desire to take advantage of the momentum resulting from the Astana summit in 2010 to deepen the discussion of the vision of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community that is free, democratic, united and indivisible. The "Helsinki+40" process launched at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin in December can help the OSCE realize its ambitious vision centred on a global approach to security that can encompass the political-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions.

We are particularly interested in the human dimension, which is an essential element of any modern security architecture and should be a priority within the OSCE. It is important that Ukraine continue the work begun by the Lithuanian and Irish chairmanships on freedom of expression and freedom of the media, including digital media. We commend the important work that has been done in the area of electoral observation and assistance by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

The United Nations and the OSCE are founded on shared values and principles. It is therefore quite natural for the two organizations to cooperate closely. We welcome the memorandums of intent signed between the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs aimed at developing a partnership for peace and disarmament initiatives and combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by promoting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the regional level. We also welcome the OSCE's efforts in partnership with the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to combat transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in drugs and humans.

On the ground, the OSCE cooperates actively with the United Nations. It has demonstrated its ability to play an essential role in concert with other regional organizations in settling conflicts and promoting peace. It does so in Afghanistan, the Balkans and Eastern Europe, in the context of the conflict in Moldova over Transdniestria. It is also the case in the southern Caucasus, through the Minsk Group and the Geneva discussion process, as well as in Central Asia. To cite only the latter example, we commend the OSCE for working closely with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia on the cross-border challenges connected to the management of water and energy resources and to combating terrorism.

We note with interest that the Ukrainian chairmanship of the OSCE has made dealing with prolonged and unsettled conflicts in the organization's zone its top priority. Any progress towards a lasting solution to such conflicts will be an important contribution to peace and security in the region.

Luxembourg will chair the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation for the last four months of this year. As our Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs announced at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin in December, Luxembourg intends to support, within that framework, efforts to improve coordination with the United Nations in the area of small arms and light weapons. We will organize two security

dialogues in September with the aim of promoting the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. Finally, my country will chair the discussions on the political and military priorities for 2014 to be submitted for adoption by the Ministerial Council meeting in Kiev in December.

In conclusion, I would like to assure the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine that Luxembourg will spare no effort in promoting the progress achieved by the OSCE in all its facets and the cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE for international peace and security.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I welcome the presence of Mr. Leonid Kozhara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and congratulate his country on its assumption of the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for 2013. I also take this opportunity to welcome the decision taken on 10 December 2012 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Union to recognize Ukraine's European aspirations and to work towards achieving political association and economic integration based on respect for common values within the Eastern Partnership. I shall limit myself to making three observations.

First, on the relationship between the two organizations, the United Nations and the OSCE have a common goal — for the former at the global level and for the latter at the regional level — to strengthen links and dialogue among States so as to better ensure their security. We know that dialogue between organizations usually raises complex political issues. We see that at work, for example, in the dialogue that the Council has with the African Union, the League of Arab States and many other organizations. But that dialogue has become an essential element in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations provides a framework that, in our view, has withstood the test of time and events. From Central Asia, Georgia and Kosovo to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE and the United Nations have shown their ability to work harmoniously on the ground. We believe that that relationship remains an essential element for security in Europe. It can also be a source of inspiration in terms of useful and innovative cooperation in other regions.

My second point concerns the future of the OSCE, which covers a vast area, from Vancouver to Vladivostok. With the recent accession of Mongolia, it includes 57 countries that share common values and a belief that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian areas goes hand in hand with the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

However, we note in Vienna a worrying tendency by some members of the organization to reconsider their commitments in that regard. We expect the Ukrainian chairmanship of the OSCE to guarantee and promote the commitments made in the three areas covered by the OSCE. In that regard, we attach particular importance to freedom of expression and freedom of the media. Similarly, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights must be able to continue to play its role in monitoring elections, and its autonomy must be preserved to that end.

France fully supports the dialogue initiated at the Dublin meeting of the Ministerial Council on the future of the OSCE within the "Helsinki+40" process and in the light of the fortieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015. The process should not limit itself to reaffirming, as was done at the Astana summit in 2010, the validity of the Helsinki obligations and of all of the significant achievements of the OSCE. Instead, we must find ways to fully implement the commitments made by the participating States and to reaffirm our commitment to that security arrangement based on common values.

My third point has to do with the commitment on the ground. The OSCE today has 15 field missions in the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Balkans, often alongside the United Nations. Its role remains, in our view, essential. Therefore, after having contributed, along with the United Nations and the European Union, to the cessation of inter-ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan, the OSCE has implemented a community safety initiative to help ease tensions between Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities. It actively contributes to stabilizing the borders of Afghanistan and Central Asia, in particular by training border guards in Central Asia, including Afghanistan. It also cooperates with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fight against transnational threats, and it has just renewed a joint action plan for 2013-2014 with that Office. That is a good example of successful cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations.

In the Caucasus, we remain committed, as part of our co-chairing of the Minsk Group along with

the United States and Russia, to helping Armenia and Azerbaijan find a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The co-chairs are continuing their mediation work while calling on the parties to respect the ceasefire and to refrain from actions and statements likely to fuel tensions. The co-chairs have repeatedly expressed their concerns about the start of civilian flights to Nagorno Karabakh and the continuing violence at the line of contact.

With regard to the OSCE office in Baku, we trust that the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office will arrive at a solution that will enable that field mission to maintain and fulfil its mandate.

On the subject of Georgia, France lends its full support to the Geneva discussions and to the OSCE role in that process, alongside the European Union and the United Nations. Those discussions must be continued in order to build confidence among the parties and improve the situation of local populations. Of course, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as recognized by international law.

In Transdniestria, we are encouraged by the increasing number of meetings in the "5+2" format held in 2012. We hope that that positive trend will continue in 2013 and that substantive progress will be possible.

In the Balkans, the facilitation of the OSCE allowed binational Serbian voters in Kosovo to participate peacefully in the Serb legislative and presidential elections of 6 May 2012. It was a difficult task, which the OSCE carried out with professionalism, thanks in particular to its substantial presence on the ground. The OSCE has once again been asked to help organize the partial municipal elections, under the agreement reached on 19 April in Brussels between Belgrade and Pristina and confirmed by both parliaments.

Finally, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country that will be on the Council's agenda next week, the OSCE presence covers a substantial number of activities, such as governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights, as well as the management of stockpiles and surplus ammunition, a subject that the OSCE should at the forefront of.

I conclude by once again expressing to Ukraine all our best wishes for its chairmanship and by assuring it of France's full support.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America) I would like to welcome to the Security Council the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Chairperson-in-Office, Foreign Minister Kozhara, and to thank him for today's briefing on OSCE activities under the leadership of Ukraine. We commend the Chairperson-in-Office for his priorities, including efforts to revitalize existing negotiation processes, combat transnational threats, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and support human rights education.

The Security Council and the OSCE have shared interests in ending active conflicts and mitigating future threats to international peace and security. The United States is committed to working with the Chairperson-in-Office, the OSCE secretariat and other participating and partner States to further the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, which closely complements the work of the United Nations.

The OSCE continues to contribute to peace and security, notably through its field missions, the work of its special representatives and its promotion of military transparency. In Kosovo, where the head of the OSCE mission concurrently serves as deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, the complementarity of the OSCE and the United Nations is clearly evident. The United States commends the OSCE for its active role in helping to develop and advise Kosovo's democratic institutions and protect human rights. We urge the OSCE to support, within its mandate, the important 19 April agreement between Serbia and Kosovo.

The OSCE's effort to promote progress on Europe's protracted conflicts in Moldova, Georgia and Nagorno Karabakh is long-standing. In Moldova, we welcome the progress of the "5+2" talks towards a comprehensive settlement of the Transdniestria issue and we hope that the additional measures can be undertaken to improve confidence on both sides of the River. As a co-chair of the Minsk Group, the United States appreciates the support of the chairmanship as we work to help the sides reach a solution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The United States also supports the OSCE's work as a co-chair of the Geneva international discussions and its ongoing work to address security and humanitarian issues in the conflict-affected areas of Georgia.

Secondly, the United States commends the OSCE's efforts to share expertise and promote dialogue beyond Europe through its Mediterranean and Asian partnership for cooperation programmes. We were especially grateful for the OSCE's support for Afghanistan's transition through improving border security, combatting narcotics trafficking and promoting development. Programmes such as the joint OSCE-United Nations Development Programme training for Afghan and other Central Asian officials at the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe not only develop the skills of border and customs officers, but also enhance regional cooperation in crucial areas.

Thirdly, the United States supports and urges the OSCE to continue its advocacy with participating States on countering transnational threats, including cyber threats, drug trafficking, counter-terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The organization's work in the new field of cyber security to identify emerging trends and potential counter measures is critical for addressing not only virtual but very real threats, including terrorists' use of the Internet. We also welcome the OSCE's efforts to implement Security Council resolutions to counter terrorism and proliferation and its work to strengthen the international legal framework against terrorism by facilitating international cooperation in criminal matters and through its joint initiatives with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Finally, the United States looks to the OSCE as an important player to help protect human rights, promote tolerance and non-discrimination, implement support for citizens' exercise of fundamental freedoms and advance the goal of gender equality in its region — commitments to which all participating States have fundamentally agreed.

We fully support the OSCE's efforts to increase the political participation of women, expand the capacities of legal systems to address domestic violence and promote mentor networks for women's empowerment. We greatly appreciate the significant support and advice that the OSCE has provided to participating States through its Forum for Security Cooperation, as they strive to implement resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security. We urge all participating States, partnerships and the broader United Nations membership to uphold the principle of gender equality. Within the OSCE, gender focal points have been appointed in all field operations, institutions and departments of its secretariat. It serves as an illustrative example of how organizations can effectively implement gender mainstreaming.

As we approach the fortieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, we are reminded of the accords that affirmed an inextricable link between the security of States and the security of citizens. We reaffirm our commitment to that objective and support the OSCE's tremendous efforts in achieving it.

Mr. Kim Sook (Republic of Korea): I would like to welcome His Excellency Mr. Leonid Kozhara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, to the Council today and to congratulate Ukraine's chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). I thank him for his briefing outlining the priorities of the OSCE for 2013.

The security challenges we are facing today clearly show the importance of the close partnership between the United Nations and regional bodies in maintaining international peace and stability. The Republic of Korea welcomes the OSCE's increasing contribution to addressing global threats and challenges, as well as its greater readiness to enhance cooperation with the Security Council. The OSCE's expertise and its own experience of overcoming the Cold War and division have enabled it to become a more reliable partner of the Security Council. We also note the priorities set out by the Chairperson-in-Office. In the light of that, I would like to highlight several points today.

First, we welcome the OSCE's greater focus on non-proliferation. That is an area where I believe we can expand our ongoing cooperation. As the largest regional organization, the OSCE has served as a torchbearer in leading the global fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, it is also commendable that the OSCE is playing an important role in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), incorporating it as a priority in its work programme for 2012 to 2015. As the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), I believe that such regional efforts are crucial in implementing, complementing and supporting the existing endeavours of the 1540 Committee. In line with that, I plan to exchange views with the members of the OSCE on that matter at the meeting of the Forum for Security and Cooperation to be held in Vienna next week. I am confident that it will serve as a timely

opportunity to further mutual cooperation towards the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Secondly, we welcome and encourage the efforts of the OSCE to resolve the protracted conflicts in the region. While the Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, I recognize that the OSCE can effectively contribute to addressing regional conflicts while complementing and reinforcing the work of the Security Council. We commend the OSCE for its active engagement in the political process of the comprehensive settlement of such conflicts, particularly in the South Caucasus and Transdniestria. We encourage the OSCE to continue its efforts in that regard, with its intimate understanding of the political, social, cultural and economic underpinnings of the conflicts.

Thirdly, the Republic of Korea applauds the OSCE for its firm commitment to counter transnational threats such as terrorism, organized crime, illicit drug trafficking and cyber threats. Particularly worthy of note among such challenges are the threats stemming from cyberspace. In an attempt to effectively address that challenge, the Korean Government will host the Seoul conference on cyberspace in October. We are confident that it will be a good opportunity to explore constructive ways to build a safe, reliable and open cyberspace. The efforts of the OSCE to develop confidence-building measures in cyberspace can provide valuable insight for the deliberations at the conference.

Lastly, let me briefly comment on the Helsinki process of the OSCE and the vision for peace and cooperation in North-East Asia. The concept of cooperative, comprehensive and indivisible security and confidence- and security-building measures of the Helsinki process still has special significance for other regions of the world, especially in North-East Asia. In North-East Asia, where overarching multilateral security institutions are markedly absent, the level of political and security cooperation remains at a nascent stage, despite the high level of economic interdependence. Against that backdrop, the Korean Government seeks to create a North-East Asian peace and cooperation initiative, namely, the Seoul process. It would involve countries in the region extending their cooperation from non-political issues, such as climate change, to political areas on the basis of trust. As we take this trust initiative forward, the Helsinki process of the OSCE can be a useful guide for the promotion of peace and prosperity in North-East Asia as well.

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea would like to express its appreciation for the OSCE's valuable contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security and hopes that it will further strengthen its close cooperation with the Security Council in addressing global threats and challenges.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me at the outset to welcome Minister Leonid Kozhara, whom we thank for his presentation. I congratulate him on his assumption of the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and I wish him every success during his term.

Guatemala is convinced that regional and subregional organizations can contribute to further strengthening the multilateral system, including in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security. Cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE is a concrete example of an alliance that has helped to promote peace and security in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. We are confident that under the chairmanship of Ukraine, the OSCE will continue to promote dialogue and cooperation with the United Nations.

We wish also to highlight specific efforts in areas that are on the agenda of the Security Council.

First, in Afghanistan, the OSCE has actively participated in efforts to promote political dialogue, enhance national capacities and support the democratic process. In that regard, Guatemala welcomes the close coordination between the OSCE and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. We welcome the assistance provided by the Government of Afghanistan in the areas of border security, police training and the fight against drug trafficking.

Secondly, with respect to the situation in Kosovo, the OSCE is also playing a constructive role, in close coordination with the United Nations and the European Union, in the context of an environment that poses major challenges. Guatemala acknowledges the work that has been done, inter alia, to strengthen the rule of law. We note also the recent agreement signed by Belgrade and Pristina, and we commend the results of the dialogue conducted under the auspices of the European Union.

Thirdly, with regard to the OSCE zone, we are concerned about the threats to security that the prolonged, unresolved conflicts in that area continue to

pose. That is an issue that could be an area for greater cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE.

Fourthly, we note the priorities that Ukraine has set for its chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013. We are pleased to hear that, in addition to efforts to resolve protracted conflicts, there will be a focus on a renewed commitment to democracy, the rule of law and human rights, as well as transnational threats.

We wish also to welcome the recent memorandums of understanding signed between the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the OSCE aimed at promoting the regional implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Lastly, Guatemala joins others in supporting Ukraine's vision and priorities for the OSCE's work this year, and it is our hope that there will be continued fruitful cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations.

Mr. Estreme (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to join the other members of the Security Council in welcoming Minister Leonid Kozhara and congratulating him on his assumption of the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). I also thank him for his briefing on the priorities that his country has set for its chairmanship of that organization and on the prospects for cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations.

Argentina values the contributions made by regional and subregional organizations to the maintenance of international peace and security. We believe that not only are they essential for strengthening the multilateral system, but they also give greater legitimacy and effectiveness to the actions of the international community in responding to challenges to peace and promoting dialogue and cooperation.

In that context, we welcome the important work done by the OSCE in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict situations. In connection with those issues, I wish to refer to some of the aspects highlighted by Minister Kozhara.

Cooperation between the United Nations, the OSCE and other organizations, on both regional and thematic issues, has made it possible to have a better-coordinated focus between the various international stakeholders. Other examples, as mentioned by other members of the Council, include the cooperation between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the OSCE. We believe that that cooperation has contributed to the efforts under way to normalize and stabilize relations in the region.

We also deem it important to highlight the close cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. There can be no doubt that that cooperation has bolstered the contribution made by the Regional Centre in responding both to domestic issues that have repercussions on regional stability and to the trans-boundary impact of the threats posed by terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking, as well as environmental deterioration and problems related to the management of water resources.

We welcome the inclusion of the issue of prolonged conflicts among Ukraine's priorities for its chairmanship, as they pose a threat to regional stability. In that vein, we welcome the determination to contribute to the process of resolving the Transdniestrian question, as made clear by the visit carried out by Mr. Kozhara and his special representative to Chisinau at the beginning of the year, as well as the role played in the talks that took place in Leopolis last April. We hope that the next meeting, to be held in Odessa, will enable political progress to be made towards a lasting solution.

We also welcome the commitment made in the context of the Geneva talks on the 2008 conflict in Georgia and the talks on Nagorno Karabakh, led by the co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.

When it comes to topics on the agenda of the Security Council, such as Afghanistan, we agree with the Minister of Ukraine that there is a need to consider the implications of the upcoming withdrawal of international forces in 2014 and the potential responses that the OSCE and other bodies could possibly provide with a view to ensuring stability in the region.

We also welcome the importance given by the Ukrainian chairmanship to efforts aimed at strengthening arms control mechanisms and security- and confidence-building measures, as well as its commitment to fighting transnational threats such as those as I mentioned previously, namely, organized crime and trafficking in persons, weapons and drugs.

In conclusion, Argentina values in particular the attention given to the implementation of existing commitments in the areas of the freedom of the press,

youth education and human rights. We support the vision and priorities set out by Ukraine for the work of the OSCE over the coming year. We trust that both the Security Council and the United Nations system as a whole will deepen their cooperation with the OSCE during the Ukrainian chairmanship.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): I would like to join Security Council colleagues in welcoming Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kozhara, to the Security Council today. May I also thank him for setting out his priorities as Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2013 and his view of the progress so far.

The OSCE remains a crucial forum for dialogue aimed at creating a security community across a vast area, from the North Atlantic to the Far East, that commits its participating States to a wide-ranging acquis across its three dimensions. It provides a platform for holding participating States to account for the commitments they have made, and offers a forum for discussion of the issues that at times continue to divide East and West, in particular in the areas of human rights and democracy.

We support the Ukrainian Chairperson's programme of work across the three dimensions, and we continue to work with him towards making progress on his priority areas, notably the protracted conflicts in Moldova and the South Caucuses, and promoting human rights and democratization. Those are issues that not only matter to the OSCE, but are important to the United Nations as well.

We support the work that Ukraine is doing to advance discussions on arms control in the politico-military dimension, and we look forward to engaging constructively both with the Chairperson and with his successors in the "Helsinki+40" process, which seeks to reinvigorate and strengthen commitments across the organization.

The promotion and protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law remain central to the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. The OSCE has one of the most extensive sets of commitments, standards and principles of any international organization, but there are increasing gaps in the compliance with those commitments by participating States. We support the Ukrainian chairmanship's efforts to encourage better implementation.

The OSCE's institutions have an important role to play in assisting States in complying with their commitments. We take the opportunity today to thank them for their outstanding contributions.

Likewise, OSCE field operations within participating States remain important in assisting their hosts to meet their commitments. We continue to support those mandates across the OSCE region.

We attach particular priority to the OSCE's efforts to ensure that the freedom of the media is respected both online and off-line, and that those exercising their right to the freedom of expression are able to do so free from violence, harassment and intimidation. We hope that participating States will agree to strengthen commitments in this area at the Kyiv meeting of the Ministerial Council.

We support Ukraine's efforts to make progress in the protracted conflicts in Moldova and the South Caucuses, and we were interested to hear the views of the Chairperson's Special Representative Ambassador Deshchytsia when he visited London recently. As a key player in the Transdniestria "5+2" process, Ukraine is well-placed to reinvigorate talks. We continue to believe that the Geneva talks being co-chaired by the OSCE with the European Union and the United Nations provide a necessary dialogue for a resolution of the conflict in Georgia. On Nagorno Karabakh, we support the Chairperson's efforts to engage with the Minsk Group, and continued dialogue with Azerbaijan and Armenia.

On the politico-military dimension, the OSCE's existing overarching framework of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures contains many important elements that we should carefully preserve and implement comprehensively. However, it is also clear that the regimes are not functioning optimally, and need to be modernized so that they can be made fit for purpose in the context of the evolving international security landscape. The current status quo is inherently unstable and unlikely to be sustainable.

The United Kingdom believes that the OSCE can play a useful regional role on transnational challenges, including in areas such as Central Asia. There is an increasing body of compelling evidence that the OSCE can add significant value through its work on border security and resolution 1540 (2004). Addressing issues of women, peace and security is essential to conflict

resolution, which goes to the heart of the OSCE's raison d'être.

Colleagues know the deep commitment of the United Kingdom to addressing sexual violence in conflict. We welcome the continued focus under the Ukrainian chairmanship on effective cooperation between the OSCE and other international organizations, not least the United Nations. There is more that could be done in collaboration on wider security matters to ensure complementary activity and to avoid duplicating efforts, including on work to combat trafficking, whether in human beings, narcotics or other illicit goods.

It is important that all OSCE members adhere to their commitments. The role of Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE provides an opportunity to promote and model the principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, good governance and the rule of law, on which the OSCE is founded. The United Kingdom looks forward to continuing to work with Ukraine and other participating States towards the strengthening and implementation of these commitments across the OSCE region.

I have a couple of questions for the Foreign Minister. The first is on the human dimension. The United Kingdom sees great value in the commitments that OSCE participating States have made under the human dimension in promoting human rights and democracy across the region. We were very disappointed that no agreement on strengthening those commitments was possible at either of the past two meetings of the Ministerial Council. We would be grateful to hear the Minister's views on what he sees as the prospects for progress in that area under his chairmanship at Kyiv in December.

Secondly, on cooperation with other international organizations, we were very pleased to hear the Minister talk of increased cooperation between the OSCE and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the area of transnational threats, and of greater coordination with other international actors in the context of the upcoming transition in Afghanistan. I wonder what other opportunities the Minister sees for joint work between the OSCE and other international organizations, including the United Nations, where such coordination would be complementary and allow the OSCE to add value and expertise.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): I join my colleagues before me in welcoming the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kozhara, and congratulating him on his assumption of the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). I thank him, furthermore, for the comprehensive briefing in which he set out the priorities and positions of the Ukrainian chairmanship.

Morocco attaches great importance to the role of regional and subregional organizations and their cooperation with the United Nations in keeping with the Charter with full respect for their mandates and respective responsibilities. The OSCE makes an undeniable and appreciated contribution in resolving conflicts through its prevention mechanisms, in particular the Conflict Prevention Centre. We believe that the understanding and complementarity between the OSCE and the United Nations are achievements that must be preserved and enhanced.

We welcome the priorities identified by the Ukrainian chairmanship, which are part of the OSCE's ongoing contribution to the promotion of international peace and security. As an active member of the Group of Friends of Mediation, Morocco welcomes the commitment of the Ukrainian chairmanship to fostering the development of an OSCE mediation support mechanism and its intention to pursue efforts to find lasting settlements to protracted conflicts in the OSCE area.

We share the priority attached by the Ukrainian chairmanship to constructive negotiations and dialogue in resolving disputes, including in the framework of the "5+2" talks and international discussions in Geneva. In that respect, my country supports efforts to find a negotiated, peaceful settlement to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Accordingly, we reiterate our support for OSCE efforts through the Minsk Group, and in particular the appeal of the co-Chairs for dialogue. In that regard, the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is an important principle that must be upheld.

Turning now to the other actions planned by the Ukrainian chairmanship, Morocco remains convinced that the United Nations could draw on the experience and capacities of the OSCE in many areas, including in weapons control, non-proliferation and combating transnational threats. We will follow with interest the updating of the Guiding Principles on Non-proliferation, and underscore the contribution of the OSCE to responding to transnational threats. We take this

opportunity to reiterate that the multidimensional and universal nature of those threats requires collective, coordinated and sustained international action. In that regard, we are encouraged by the importance attached to bolstering cooperation with the United Nations in those areas.

Morocco is an OSCE Mediterranean Partner for Cooperation and actively participates in the Mediterranean Contact Group. My country's interest in its Mediterranean partnership with the OSCE arises from the great importance it attaches to the partnership's priority areas in the security, economic and environmental fields, in particular those concerning the fight against terrorism and other types of crime, discrimination, trafficking in human beings, immigration and development.

Allow me in that regard to reiterate Morocco's appeal to review the status of the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation with a view to identifying a more committed and participatory approach. In that respect, I recall that Morocco put forward a text reflecting our vision of the format and content of that partnership. The document contains a number of proposals aimed at strengthening the partnership and making it more substantive on the basis of an updated agenda.

Morocco supports all initiatives to promote tolerance and interreligious dialogue and to counter all types of discrimination, and reiterates its appeal for strengthened cooperation between the OSCE and the Alliance for Civilizations. That partnership is based on a number of clear objectives in peace, security and cooperation.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating all our wishes for success to the Ukrainian chairmanship of the OSCE in carrying out the ambitious objectives that it has taken on.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): At the outset, let me thank the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mr. Leonid Kozhara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, for his work at the helm of the OSCE and for his briefing today. We value our regular interactions with regional and subregional organizations, as Rwanda strongly believes in strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

We welcome the priorities for action set forth by Ukraine for its 2013 chairmanship of the OSCE, which are in line with the "Helsinki+40" process. We approve its common vision, goals and actions, which we hope will ensure security, stability and prosperity in the OSCE area. We commend the comprehensive approach of the OSCE, which focuses on peace and security issues, including conflict prevention, but which also strives to foster economic development while ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and promoting full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We stress the importance of cooperation between the OSCE and other stakeholders at all stages of conflicts, namely, conflict prevention, conflict management and resolution, and post-conflict peacebuilding. In that regard, we commend the work of the OSCE in mediating conflicts and monitoring elections on the European continent. I highlight OSCE cooperation with the European Union (EU) in Kosovo in promoting the rule of law, which is paramount to stability and progress there.

On election monitoring, Rwanda supports OSCE efforts aimed at facilitating municipal elections in 2013 in northern Kosovo, in accordance with applicable law and international standards. We commend the continued cooperation of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo with other regional actors, particularly the EU. We believe that such cooperation on region-wide issues will support reconciliation efforts in Kosovo and the region.

On another conflict, we welcome the continued efforts of the co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to mediate on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We reiterate Rwanda's belief that only a negotiated settlement complying with relevant resolutions of the Security Council, respecting internationally recognized borders and ensuring the protection of minorities will bring a lasting resolution to the crisis.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that past and current experience has shown that strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and regional actors can play a key role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Therefore, Rwanda looks forward to continued fruitful cooperation with the OSCE under Ukraine's able leadership.

Mr. Musayev (Azerbaijan): At the outset, I would like to welcome the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

(OSCE) and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kozhara, to the Security Council and thank him for his briefing and for setting out his priorities across the three dimensions of security.

Azerbaijan commends the Ukrainian chairmanship for its focus on the resolution of the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area. It is important to reinvigorate ongoing conflict settlement efforts and encourage participating States to comply with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and to implement the resolutions adopted by the main organs of the United Nations. We hope that the decision on the "Helsinki+40" process adopted last year in Dublin will contribute to the achievement of tangible outcomes to that end.

The OSCE provides an ongoing forum for discussions on settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We take positive note of the support of the Chairperson-in-Office for mediation efforts in that regard, and would like to offer some thoughts on issues of concern and areas of action that we deem particularly important.

Twenty years ago, in 1993, the Security Council adopted four resolutions condemning the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories; reaffirming respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of my country and the inviolability of international borders; confirming that the Nagorno Karabakh region was part of Azerbaijan; and demanding the immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories. The resolutions also made specific reference to violations of international humanitarian law, including the displacement of a large number of civilians in Azerbaijan, attacks on civilians and bombardments of my country's territory. A series of Security Council presidential statements made between 1992 and 1995 are phrased along the same lines. In other words, the resolutions, which are clearly the most authoritative and binding rulings on the problem, acknowledge that acts of military force were committed against Azerbaijan, and that such acts constituted a violation of international law.

Unfortunately, key Security Council demands have still not been implemented, and the mediation efforts conducted for more than 20 years within the framework of the OSCE have yet to yield results. Against that background, attempts to downplay the relevance of the Security Council resolutions and to misinterpret the norms and principles of international law, as well as the Armenian side's insistence on unrealistic annexationist claims, represent an open challenge to the conflict-settlement process and a serious threat to international and regional peace and security. Moreover, consistent measures are being undertaken in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan with a view to further consolidating the current status quo of the occupation and preventing the return of more than 700,000 internally displaced Azerbaijanis to their homes.

On our initiative in the United Nations in 2005 and 2010, OSCE-led fact-finding and fact-assessment missions visited the occupied territories. Both missions documented the facts of illegal activities in those areas involving, inter alia, implanting settlers, extensive redrawing of boundaries, changing place names, and discriminatory treatment regarding cultural property and sacred sites. However, the missions' recommendations remained on paper. Moreover, the latest reports on the transfer of Syrian Armenians into the Nagorno Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, along with other illegal activities, including efforts to operate flights into and out of those territories, provide yet more evidence of Armenia's deliberate policy of colonization of Azerbaijani lands. We hope that the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office will insist on the need for an immediate and unconditional halt to all actions seriously obstructing the prospects for a negotiated settlement of the conflict, based on international law.

The achievement of peace, security and stability is possible first and foremost only if the consequences of Armenia's unlawful use of force are removed, thus ensuring that the occupation of Azerbaijan's territories is ended and that the right of internally displaced Azerbaijanis to return to their homes, property and possessions is guaranteed and implemented. That is what international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions require, and that is what can in no way be introduced as a bargaining chip in the conflict-settlement process. Above all, Azerbaijan will never compromise its territorial integrity or the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

The establishment of the truth about the serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law committed during the conflict, the provision of adequate and effective reparations to victims and the need for institutional action to prevent the repetition

of such violations are all prerequisites for true conflict resolution. It is obvious that the impunity still enjoyed by the perpetrators of the crimes, including the political and military leadership of Armenia and the members of the puppet separatist regime in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, continues to impede progress in achieving the long-awaited peace and reconciliation between the two countries.

Azerbaijan is confident that the consistent measures being taken at the national level, as well as the existing international legal framework, will serve to bring to justice those responsible for the grave offences committed against the civilian population of Azerbaijan during the conflict. Generally speaking, we believe that the conflict-resolution initiatives must ensure that peace and justice work together effectively. Peace efforts cannot be conducted in a manner that contradicts the established norms of international law. It is therefore imperative that such efforts and peace agreements never encourage the acceptance of situations achieved by the unlawful use of force or other egregious violations of international law, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and ethnic cleansing.

We commend the OSCE chairmanship for its commitment to remaining actively engaged with the ongoing efforts of the United Nations towards strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution. There is an obvious need for reviewing and assessing the OSCE mandates and performance in conflict-cycle-related issues, in particular conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation. Based on existing commitments, more concerted efforts should be put into exploring the OSCE's role in multinational peacekeeping operations, with a particular focus on civilian and police components. The OSCE's interaction with various military and security arrangements must be considered in the context of the indivisibility of the OSCE area, by addressing, inter alia, the legitimate concerns of those States participating in the OSCE that are not members of any military alliances, and by providing them with political and security guarantees.

One of the OSCE's major contributions to peace and security in the political-military dimension is made chiefly through arms control and confidence- and security-building measures. The implementation of such measures should be done in a way that ensures the right of every State to an equal level of security and that guarantees that no individual State or group of States enjoys an advantage over others. Efforts in that particular area should not be taken out of the overall political and security context. They should take into account the legitimate security needs and concerns of participating States, especially those that are not members of military alliances with conflict-affected territories; they should also take into account the consequences of conflict, such as military intervention and illegal deployment.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine once again for addressing the Security Council, and to wish our Ukrainian colleagues a successful chairmanship.

Mr. Shen Bo (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China would like to thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kozhara, for his briefing on behalf of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). As an important regional organization, over the years the OSCE has made a positive contribution to efforts to conduct preventive diplomacy, enhance security and mutual trust, mediate regional disputes and combat transnational crime. China appreciates those efforts, and we encourage the OSCE to continue to exploit its advantages and to play a constructive role in maintaining regional peace, security and stability. China believes that strengthening United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations is very important to the maintenance of international peace and security, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Security Council bears the primary responsibilty for the maintenance of international peace and security. Regional and subregional organizations, with their unique advantages, are in a position to support and collaborate with the Security Council as a useful complement to its work. The OSCE is an important cooperation partner for the United Nations. China encourages the Security Council to cooperate with the OSCE in the maintenance of international peace and security in a manner that is more results-oriented and effective.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

I, too, would like to welcome the presence here in the Council of the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mr. Leonid Kozhara, Minister for Foreign

Affairs of Ukraine, and to thank him for having presented, inter alia, his country's priorities for its chairmanship of the OSCE.

My country shares his expressed desire to continue to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE in particular and, more generally, between the United Nations and regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter. We believe that concerted responses by the United Nations and regional organizations and closer and more sustained partnerships will prevent and permanently resolve frozen and latent conflicts and those under way almost everywhere in the world.

In this sense, my country welcomes the major contribution the OSCE has made to conflict resolution. In working to create a security community through continuous dialogue and based on the concept of global and indivisible security, the OSCE has been able to ensure stability in its region and improve the lives of its individuals and communities, despite the several remaining areas of tension. Indeed, its multifaceted work in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular, have provided support for the creation of institutions designed to avert future conflicts, strengthen governance in those countries, and encourage the consolidation of multi-ethnic and multi-faith societies, even if progress in that area is still needed.

My country believes that, in order to achieve the best results and avoid duplication of efforts in their areas of responsibility, the OSCE and the United Nations must continue to strengthen their cooperation on the basis of their respective experience, which could benefit other regional organizations. Indeed, the recognized expertise of the OSCE in electoral processes, supporting for democratization process, the implementation of confidence-building measures, the strengthening of security and the fight against terrorism — all of which are issues that Africa faces — could be very useful, particularly to the African Union. That is why we welcome the focus of the Ukrainian chairmanship of the OSCE on strengthening cooperation with the United Nations, and we hope that such cooperation will extend to other regional organizations. No State and no institution, no matter how powerful, can stand alone against threats to international peace and security.

Togo welcomes Ukraine's decision to include, in the list of priorities of its chairmanship, a new effort to resolve unresolved or prolonged conflicts within the OSCE region, including the conflict in Transdniestria, which has not been able to reach a viable resolution for over 20 years. In that regard, we welcome the announcement of a new round of negotiations on the issue under the "5+2" format in the coming days in Odessa. Togo urges the parties to the conflict to become more involved in those negotiations in a spirit of consensus so that a mutually acceptable political solution can finally emerge. My country believes that a proposal for a resolution to the conflict that takes the sovereignty, territorial integrity and Constitution of the Republic of Moldova into account, alongside a special guaranteed status for Transdniestria, could be a good basis for negotiations.

Furthermore, we hope that, in chairing the OSCE, Ukraine will achieve the desired success in reconciling the positions of the parties to the conflicts in Nagorno Karabakh, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and thereby allow for progress towards their final resolution. The Nagorno Karabakh conflict, which has already lasted too long and has had a negative impact on the relationship between Armenia and Azerbaijan, should receive special attention so that the suffering of the people of that region can be brought to an end. We hope that Mr. Kozhara's visit to Baku in June will allow move the process forward.

Let me conclude by wishing every success to Ukraine in implementing its mandate. In addition to the priorities it has identified for its tenure, it must overcome, on the one hand, the lack of interest shown by some members of the organization that no longer recognize its usefulness, and, on the other hand, the current disagreements regarding the activities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which have been largely responsible for delays in the adoption of the budget this year.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to Mr. Kozhara to respond to the comments and questions of Council members.

Mr. Kozhara: I thank all the Council members for their kind words regarding Ukraine's chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and their strong belief in its success. I am strongly encouraged by the unanimous support granted by Council members to the priorities and initiatives of the Ukrainian chairmanship. We welcome their constructive suggestions and valuable opinions,

which we will certainly take into account in advancing our common goals.

As I am a few minutes late for a meeting with the Secretary-General, I shall ask the Ukraine mission to pass on our answers in written form. I thank all members for their kind and warm approach to the chairmanship of the Ukraine.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6962

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6962nd meeting
Wednesday, 8 May 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Menan	(Togo)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	France	Mr. Briens
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zagainov
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. McKell
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Libya

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13-32648 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Prosecutor Bensouda.

Ms. Bensouda: Thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to address the Security Council for the fifth time on the situation in Libya since it was referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC), in February 2011.

When the Security Council referred the situation in Libya to the Court, it had determined that it would be in the interest of peace and security. We have all witnessed developments in Libya since the demise of the Al-Qadhafi regime. Despite important progress made in moving Libya forward on the path of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, many challenges remain. The resolve of the Council when it referred the situation in Libya was not only to ensure accountability for perpetrators of crimes, but also to secure lasting peace for the Libyan people. The Council must therefore continue assisting Libya through the difficult times that it faces. It is only through our joint coordinated efforts that justice and peace will prevail.

Following the admissibility challenges filed by the Libyan Government with regard to the *Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi* and *Abdullah Al-Senussi* cases and in accordance with the Rome Statute, investigations with respect to those cases have been suspended. The Al-Qadhafi case has advanced to a stage where it remains for the Chamber to pronounce itself on the submissions made by all parties. We expect the Chamber to do so in the near future. Only last week, my Office filed its response to Libya's challenge on the admissibility of the *Al-Senussi* case. It is commendable that Libya is invoking its rights under the Rome Statute through a judicial process. In doing so, Libya demonstrates its full understanding of the difference between the Council's political mandate and the ICC's judicial mandate, even where the Council has referred the situation to the International Criminal Court.

More important, Libya is engaged in the development of the law. Irrespective of the outcome, the admissibility processes under way at the ICC will set the standard for years to come on how the Court and States interact with each other regarding national proceedings. As the Statute dictates, a State seeking a finding of inadmissibility of cases before ICC must satisfy the judges that it is genuinely investigating and prosecuting the same persons for the same conduct as that under investigation by the Office of the Prosecutor. That is the law and nothing short of that will suffice. By conducting fair, just and transparent judicial proceedings for all alleged perpetrators, while also continuing to respect the ICC judicial process, Libya can set a lasting example for other States.

Given the extensive crimes committed in Libya and the challenges facing the new Libyan Government, the ICC's mandate is still essential to ending impunity in Libya. My Office therefore continues to conduct investigations of crimes committed in Libya.

My Office is aware of allegations of serious crimes committed by former Al-Qadhafi officials, some of who are now outside of Libya. We are currently engaged in the process of documenting the most serious of those crimes and are documenting the current activities of those officials who were most responsible for them. The Office plans to take a decision regarding a second case in the near future and will consider additional cases after that, depending upon the Government of Libya's progress in implementing its comprehensive strategy.

My Office also continues to be concerned about the allegations of crimes committed by rebel forces, including the expulsion of residents of Tawergha, who have been unable to return home, the ongoing alleged persecution of ethnic groups perceived to have been affiliated with the Al-Qadhafi regime and specific incidents as yet unaccounted for, such as the alleged execution of 50 persons on the grounds of the Mahari Hotel in Sirte in October 2011, and the alleged arbitrary detention, torture, killings and destruction of property

that arose during Libyan Government and militia operations in Bani Walid in September 2012.

Complementarity and cooperation define the relationship between the Court and national justice systems. Both are therefore essential for the implementation of international justice and the punishment of crimes under the Rome Statute. Above all, both are essential for ensuring that prosecution of the few does not result in impunity for the many. It is for that reason that my Office continues to explore possibilities for mutually reinforcing judicial activities with the Government of Libya in fostering complementarity.

I recently met the new Libyan Prosecutor-General, Mr. Abdul Qader Juma Radwan, and the Libyan ICC focal point, Mr. Ahmed El-Gehani, who travelled to The Hague at my request to discuss our ongoing investigations. The constructive and fruitful discussions between my Office and the Libyan delegation focused on cooperation and the coordination of efforts to advance the Office's investigative activities, both within and outside Libya. Those preliminary positive discussions illustrate the willingness of my Office and the Government of Libya to cooperatively work together in furthering investigations that could lead to the arrest and surrender of alleged perpetrators, both inside and outside Libya. I plan to travel to Libya soon to further my discussions with the highest political authorities.

Allow me to stress the importance of all of us working together with the Government of Libya to realize a comprehensive strategy for justice. My Office is encouraged to see the important strides made in transforming Libya, including the first democratic elections in more than four decades, the installation of a new Government last November, and the appointment of a new Prosecutor-General.

Those signs of progress cannot eclipse the challenge that Libya faces in addressing the legacy of so many years of impunity. It need not be a challenge that Libya faces alone. By the same token, Libya must realize that with the international intervention in Libya, in the context of all of the developments that have taken place in the last three years in the region, what happens with Libya's perpetrators is a page in the history books of international justice, no matter where those investigations and prosecutions take place. They must be a shining example of what we can achieve through human endeavours to seek justice. Those trials can be Libya's Nuremberg moment, one that will endeavour to seal the primacy of the rule of law, due process and human rights for future generations.

My Office looks forward to discussing with Prosecutor-General Radwan and the Libyan authorities the best way forward and how we can collaborate and coordinate our efforts to ensure that all alleged perpetrators are held to account.

As Prosecutor, I cannot and should not get involved in political considerations; nor should I ever stretch the interpretation of the norms adopted in Rome. Equally, neither the Council or its members nor any State, for that matter, should ever seek to interfere with the judicial processes of the Court.

Regardless, I look forward to continuing my discussions with the Council about how we can ensure that our coordinated follow-up of referrals of situations like that in Libya will allow us to bring our considerable resources and knowledge to bear in ensuring that peace and justice prevail in Libya.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ms. Bensouda for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): I would like to thank the Prosecutor, Ms. Bensouda, for her briefing this morning on the work of her Office in relation to Libya. Clearly, the situation in Libya demonstrates the distinct but complementary roles of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Security Council. The Council has repeatedly highlighted the importance of accountability and of ending impunity for the most serious crimes, for the maintenance of international peace and security. Consistent with that, the Council has twice asked the ICC to play a direct role in the context of a Chapter VII resolution: first, in respect of Darfur, in resolution 1593 (2005), and, secondly, its referral of the Libyan situation, in resolution 1970 (2011), which is the subject of today's briefing.

While some good progress has been made, Libya continues, as we know, to face complex and serious challenges. It is important for all aspects of the international response — the United Nations special Mission, the Council's sanctions regime and international criminal procedures — to be coordinated and complementary.

In March, the Council, in resolution 2095 (2013), renewed its call on the Libyan Government to continue to cooperate with the ICC and the Prosecutor. We are encouraged by the fact that Libya continues to demonstrate a strong desire to prosecute those accused of committing Rome Statute crimes and that, in challenging the admissibility of ICC proceedings, Libya has followed Rome Statute procedures. As we await the outcome of those proceedings, we would like to reiterate the importance of the Libyan Government respecting the Court's rulings on the admissibility challenges, whatever their outcomes.

The situation in Libya demonstrates that the ICC can, and does, play a significant role in strengthening the rule of law in States undergoing post-conflict transition. Referral of the situation in Libya to the ICC was an important and necessary step for the Council to have taken. As I mentioned yesterday during the informal interactive dialogue, the ICC referral has served as a catalyst for Libya's own efforts, not just in regard to the two individuals currently subject to proceedings, but also with respect to the reform of Libya's judicial system, a decisive element of its transition to democracy.

Ensuring respect for the rule of law in Libya is the responsibility of the Libyan authorities themselves. Regardless of the outcome of Libya's jurisdictional challenge, it is important to bear in mind that the ICC's jurisdiction is limited to those most responsible for committing serious international crimes. It is therefore crucial for Libya to ensure that justice is served in relation to other perpetrators and other crimes.

Libya should continue to work with the Court to ensure that all allegations of serious international crimes are investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted, regardless of whether those allegations concern supporters of Muammar Al-Qadhafi or those who raised arms to establish a new Libya. We very much welcome the Prosecutor's advice this morning of recent constructive initiatives by the Prosecutor and the Libyan authorities to ensure complementarity and cooperation in furthering investigations against perpetrators, both inside and outside Libya, to ensure that they all are held to account.

The Court is a vital partner for the Council. We all know that without justice it is difficult to establish an inclusive and lasting peace. Effective coordination between the ICC and the Council is essential in order to ensure that the separate efforts of the two bodies, which have very different mandates, have a multiplying and reinforcing effect and that they are able to work together to help end impunity for serious international crimes.

To enable the Court to carry out its work effectively, the Council needs to find creative ways to support it. Doing so is particularly important where the Court's jurisdiction derives from a Council resolution. The continued and active support of the Council is necessary to underscore the importance of States cooperating with the Court. Support from the Council is important to ensure that the objectives of its referrals are realized, namely, that justice is delivered and that international peace and security is maintained.

With that in mind, we support expanded cooperation between the Council and the Court. Yesterday's informal interactive dialogue between Council members and the Prosecutor was a very useful first step towards considering how the Council can more effectively support the Court's work. We look forward to working with other members of the Council to further develop what should be an organic relationship between the two bodies and to implement the Council's commitment to an effective follow-up of Council referrals to the Court.

In concluding, let me say that we look forward to further updates from the Prosecutor, in relation to both Libya and other situations before the Court.

Mr. Kim Sook (Republic of Korea): I thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for her briefing on the recent developments in the Libyan situation, which the Security Council has referred to it.

Many tasks still lie ahead in Libya's nation-building process. Security must be improved, widely scattered weapons should be collected, and militia groups should be immobilized and reintegrated. The creation of a constitution is a very complex and sensitive process of social contracts.

Nevertheless, the Libyan people have made significant progress and have already overcome a number of challenges. National elections were successfully held for the first time in more than four decades. A new Government was formed, and the second anniversary of the revolution was celebrated without serious disturbances. With the successful completion of the ongoing transition, Libya will achieve sustained peace and a stable democracy.

The Prosecutor has raised four issues.

First, on the issue of cooperation between the ICC and Libya, in order for the ICC successfully to discharge the mandate that the Council has given it, close cooperation between the ICC and Libya is of pivotal importance. We urge Libya to continue to adhere to its international obligations, including those under resolution 1970 (2011), and to further enhance its cooperation with the ICC.

We welcome the contacts that the Office of the Prosecutor and the Libyan Government continue to maintain, and their ongoing efforts to ensure that a good level of cooperation is preserved. Such contacts should be regularized, as exemplified by the recent visit to the ICC by the new Libyan Prosecutor-General.

Secondly, with respect to the admissibility of the case against Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi, we have taken note of the challenges initiated by Libya before the Court. It is a prerequisite for Libya to fully cooperate with the ICC in order to materialize such admissibility challenges. We are pleased that Libya and the ICC are continuing to engage constructively on issues relating to the ICC proceedings. Given the challenges that Libya is facing in this transitional post-conflict stage, it should be afforded reasonable time to prepare additional material. However, the ultimate decision on the matter should be made by the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber, which is judicially independent.

Thirdly, concerning the ongoing investigation by the Office of the Prosecutor, we appreciate its effort to investigate the allegations of crimes committed by pro-Al-Qadhafi officials outside of Libya and by rebel forces. After its ongoing investigations, the Office of the Prosecutor might open a second case. We hope that the investigations can corroborate the allegations of crimes and lead to justice being delivered to any victims of such serious crimes.

Fourthly, with respect to Libya's capacity to deal with past crimes and to promote the rule of law, we appreciate the important role played by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). As resolution 2095 (2013) articulates, we encourage UNSMIL to continue to support Libyan efforts to promote the rule of law, in accordance with Libya's international legal obligations.

In the case of the ICC, as a part of its implementation of the policy of positive complementarity the Prosecutor should assist Libyan authorities in prosecutions, using various methods to encourage Libya to prosecute cases domestically, whenever possible. The policy of positive complementarity and Libya's admissibility challenges could then be mutually pertinent. Libya's early formulation and adoption of an all-encompassing strategy to address past crimes and to end impunity will surely demonstrate that the principles of justice and accountability remain pillars of Libya's transition and key to ensuring lasting peace.

In conclusion, we welcome Libya's cooperation with the ICC, as evidenced by its recent admissibility challenge of 2 April. We look forward to a full investigation of all allegations of serious crimes committed in Libya, and we encourage the Prosecutor to continue her investigative efforts, in cooperation with the Libyan authorities. We stress the need for the Libyan Government to formulate, make public and implement a comprehensive strategy to address such crimes. The Korean Government stands ready to strongly support the ICC and its activities. We also believe that the Security Council should continue to closely monitor the Libyan situation that it has referred.

Mr. Zagainov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, allow me to thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda for her briefing and presentation of her fifth report on the investigations in Libya pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011).

We support the efforts of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute individuals who committed heinous crimes during the events in Libya. However, judging from the report, work continues to stall in that regard. In spite of appeals for an objective legal analysis of the activities of all parties to the conflict and post-conflict violence, investigations continue to concentrate only on suspects from the entourage of the former Libyan leader. Even on that front, in spite of ample legal proceedings and activities, we have yet to see progress. After almost two years, there has been no notable progress in prosecuting rebels, although there are accounts of those individuals committing brutal crimes in armed clashes. These facts are well known.

According to reports, violence in Libya unfortunately continues in today's post-conflict situation against a backdrop of problems with the functioning of the State apparatus and the central

Government's control over the country as a whole. We welcome the ICC's monitoring role in that regard.

Finally, there is the pending matter of the investigation of cases of civilian causalities and the destruction of civilian targets during NATO operations. We suggest that the ICC step up its analysis of information received from the United Nations fact-finding mission, humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other channels.

We support the legal foundation of ICC activities pursuant to the Rome Statute, including the principle of complementarity. Without a doubt, not all crimes committed in Libya should be investigated by the Court. The question is how effectively that principle can be implemented with specific respect to the Libyan situation. In that regard, it would be no exaggeration to state that the moment of truth has come for the ICC with regard to the Libyan investigations.

In our view, the impacts of the crisis in Libya are a serious obstacle to justice being effectively served. Reports from various sources, including civil society bodies, give cause for concern that there are gaping holes in the Libyan legal system. Some of those are a legacy from the past, while others are the direct consequence of recent events. We therefore highly doubt that, at this time, conditions in Libya are eminently conducive to conducting fair legal proceedings in line with international standards with respect to Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi.

The jurisdiction of the ICC over those cases is contested, and the matter of admissibility will ultimately be decided by the ICC. However, we understand that the Libyan side has not yet provided the Court with convincing information on national investigations. We do not fully understand why Libya has not done so for some time now. We suggest that the Prosecutor and Judges of the ICC take a more careful look into this situation.

We are also concerned by the lack of information regarding the detention of a group of ICC staff in Zintan in June 2012, which was a cause of great concern. That episode endangered the work of the ICC in Libya, undermined its credibility and the security of its staff, and had an adverse impact on interaction between the Court and States.

With respect to the Security Council interactive dialogue with the Prosecutor of the ICC that took place yesterday, we should like to know the following. Concerning the proposal with respect to the possible future steps of the Security Council to assist the ICC in the framework of the investigation of the Libyan situation, we feel that it would be appropriate to consider it in the light of practical suitability, the Council's mandate, the prerogatives of the ICC and the basic international legal context. For our part, we still do not understand the added value of the interactive dialogue that took place yesterday. In any case, we did not receive responses to our questions. When it comes to holding such meetings in the future, we would evaluate their suitability on a case-by-case basis and in the light of additional information to be provided by the Prosecutor. Moreover, we suggest that the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals, given its lack of mandate, is not the right format for discussions on international criminal justice.

Mr. Shen Bo (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): We listened carefully to the briefing by Ms. Bensouda.

Thanks to the efforts of the people of Libya, important progress has been made in the country's political transition. We hope that the people of Libya will work to achieve national cohesion and State unity, continue to move its political process forward, and tackle the many challenges it faces in order to achieve early national reconciliation, social stability and national economic reconstruction. The international community is called upon to continue to provide support and assistance to the Government and the people of Libya in their efforts.

China's position on the question of the International Criminal Court remains unchanged. We support the Government of Libya in its efforts to strengthen the rule of law, establish a sound judicial system, investigate and punish serious crimes. We also hope that the International Criminal Court, in its activities carried out under the relevant Security Council resolutions, will play a positive role in Libya's national reconstruction and political transition.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this morning's important meeting. We welcome the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms. Fatou Bensouda, and thank her for her statement and her briefing.

Within the complex transition process which Libya is now undergoing, we welcome the progress

made by the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC in the cases against Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi. We trust that as the transition process continues, a greater institutionality will take hold that will allow Libya to build a State that guarantees human rights, the rule of law and an end to impunity. We therefore believe that it is of great importance for Libya to continue to cooperate with the International Criminal Court and the Office of the Prosecutor. It is vital for those bodies to enjoy the support and necessary assistance of all States, including those that are not yet parties to the Rome Statute.

Guatemala believes that the Libyan authorities have the obligation to respect the work of the Court and the Office of the Prosecutor. To that end, they must be able to work without impediment or restriction of any kind. We hope that the security situation in Libya will improve and that the new Government will be able to provide the necessary support to all staff of the Court so that they can conduct investigations appropriately. In that respect, we wish to acknowledge the efforts made to designate a focal point for contact with the ICC, and the discussions aimed at improving cooperation and coordination between the Government and the Office of the Prosecutor.

We appreciate the work done until now by the Office of the Prosecutor, and we see the involvement and interest of the Libyan authorities in the process as positive signs. We await with interest the decisions of the Court on both challenges made by the Government of Libya to the admissibility of the cases against Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi. We believe that the situation will help determine the impartiality, independence and ability of the Libya judicial system to function. As a result, it will also help strengthen the judiciary, which is essential to developing the rule of law. Whatever the decision of the ICC on the admissibility of the two cases may be, we believe that the Office of the Prosecutor must closely follow and remain involved in the progress and decisions made in both cases. In particular, we believe that all the necessary steps must be taken to preserve evidence and protect witnesses while the decision is taken on the challenges to those cases.

Furthermore, with respect to cooperation pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), Libya is obligated to cooperate with the Court and the Office of the Prosecutor. We note that many of the requests for assistance made in connection with the situation in Libya have not yet been responded to satisfactorily. We therefore believe that the possibilities of cooperation between the Council and the International Criminal Court have not yet been exhausted, not only when it comes to Libya, but also when it comes to other interested States and organizations.

Guatemala believes that the Security Council must continue to monitor the events and situations referred to the Court, as well as the obstacles that the Court may encounter in the conduct of its work. As to other crimes committed in Libya, we believe that it is extremely important to investigate them and we call on the Office of the Prosecutor to pursue its important work. We reaffirm our call for all possible violations of human rights and crimes against humanity that may have been committed in Libya to be investigated, no matter who the perpetrator might be. In that context, we are especially concerned about gender-based crimes that took place during the conflict. We hope that investigations of such crimes will help bring justice to the victims of those crimes. We likewise call for potential ethnic crimes and those committed in detention centres outside State control to be investigated.

Lastly, we wish to reiterate our support for and commitment to the Court and the Office of the Prosecutor, and we hope that they will continue to do their good work in Libya.

Mr. McKell (United Kingdom): I should like in turn to thank the Prosecutor for her report on the situation in Libya and for her briefing today. The United Kingdom remains a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court (ICC). We thank the Prosecutor and her Office for the detailed work described in the report.

Security and justice sector reform are critical if Libya is to facilitate the rebuilding of State institutions and the return to stability. We, along with our international partners, will continue to work with Libya to provide it with the support it needs to meet the challenges that it faces.

We welcome ongoing efforts to investigate and bring to justice all those members of the former regime who are guilty of abuses and to press forward with implementation of the recommendations made in the latest Human Rights Council resolution adopted on 21 March. It is important, however, that all those who committed crimes be brought to justice. We encourage the Libyan authorities to abandon plans to provide revolutionaries who committed war crimes and crimes

against humanity with amnesty from punishment for their crimes. We call on them to investigate and prosecute all individuals implicated in such abuses. Addressing security and transitional justice remains the immediate challenge for the Libyan Government. We are providing assistance to Libya by sending a justice adviser to contribute to prison — and justice-sector reform projects. We stand ready to give further aid to Libyan-led efforts to build up accountable and transparent security and justice institutions, improve security and strengthen the rule of law.

We fully support the ongoing investigations concerning gender-based crimes, with a particular focus on those outside Libya, and those relating to allegations about the situation in Tawergha. Those efforts continue to play an important part in challenging impunity and ensuring accountability for those who bear the greatest responsibility for the most serious crimes.

We welcome the level of cooperation that the Libyan Government has undertaken with the ICC in relation to the arrest warrants issued against Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi. Libya's continued cooperation with the ICC is essential. We note that there are now admissibility challenges submitted by the Libyan authorities regarding both cases, and that the Prosecutor's investigations into them are suspended pending a ruling from the ICC judges. We continue to encourage the ICC and the Libyan Government to work together to address matters arising out of the events of June 2012. More generally, we are pleased that Libya and the ICC are continuing to engage constructively on issues relating to the ICC proceedings. It is important that the detention of both Abdullah Al-Senussi and Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi be conducted in accordance with international law, that they have access to legal advisers and that any potential trial held in Libya be consistent with Libya's international human rights obligations.

The authorities of the United Kingdom have played a part in the ICC's investigation so far by providing full support, as and when requested, to the Prosecutor and her team of investigators. We are a strong, principled supporter of the ICC and will continue to provide our full support to the Prosecutor, as and when requested.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): I would like to thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for her fifth report on the implementation of resolution 1970 (2011) and for the additional information she has provided today.

Rwanda, as co-Chair of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect, would like to stress that the international community has a responsibility to protect civilians targeted by their own Governments and a duty to ensure that the perpetrators of mass atrocities are brought to justice. That is why we supported resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), on Libya, and called for swift justice for the victims.

Looking forward, we are encouraged by the achievements of the new Libyan Government in rebuilding its institutions with the support of the international community. We are fully aware of — indeed, concerned about — the daunting challenges that the country continues to face, particularly the proliferation of weapons, uncontrolled militias, terrorist activities and political uncertainty, all of which are undermining the State authority of a democratically elected Government. However, we believe the overall trend is positive and that the Libyan Government should be supported and encouraged in its post-conflict efforts aimed at justice, reconciliation and recovery.

To achieve that goal, it is important that the judicial process be carried out by Libyans themselves, with the support of the international community. From our own humble experience, we know that it is indeed important that justice be done close to the victims. In that regard, we take note of Libya's continued cooperation with the ICC and welcome the decision of the Office of the Prosecutor to support the inadmissibility of the case of Abdullah Al-Senussi on the basis of materials provided by the Libyan Government. We also hope that the case of Al-Senussi, together with that of Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi, will eventually be handled by Libyan courts.

We would like to take this opportunity to call on the ICC and the wider international community to ensure that the remaining suspects of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Libya, including those living abroad, are brought before Libyan jurisdictions. It is important in that regard that the international community support and provide assistance to improve Libya's capacity to deal with past crimes and promote the rule of law. We also believe that the sanctions regime in Libya is of paramount importance in building sustainable peace there. During the past two years, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, which I currently chair,

has contributed to giving new hope to Libyans in the aftermath of the conflict.

I would now like to speak in broader terms about the role of the ICC and the importance of a genuine system of international criminal justice. Rwanda has always believed that combating impunity must be at the core of the Security Council's mission. We also believe that a robust system of international criminal justice, which must complement national jurisdictions, is essential to ending impunity for the most serious crimes and to promoting reconciliation in post-conflict societies. However, to achieve that goal, such justice must be independent of political interference and uphold the principle of the sovereign equality of States. Needless to say, Rwanda, like many other United Nations Member States, does not believe that the ICC has lived up to those aspirations. In fact, it has been selective in its methods for investigating and prosecuting perpetrators of serious international crimes, since it has failed to prosecute similar crimes committed in other parts of the world with impunity. Furthermore, as has been stated on many occasions, it is difficult to understand how equal justice can be served if the Security Council can refer cases to the Court while the Council's permanent members have discretionary power to block any prosecution of their own nationals or allies.

In that regard, even signatories to the Rome Statute have recently expressed concerns about the Court. I would like to cite the note verbale dated Thursday, 2 May 2013, addressed by the Kenyan delegation to the Security Council, which contains a compelling case against the methods of work of the Office of the Prosecutor on the Kenya cases. That was also pointed out by a judge of the ICC who recently resigned. Why? In that regard, Rwanda hopes that the Security Council will soon schedule a decision on the issue raised by Member States for its programme of work, with a view to addressing the growing concerns of Member States, including signatories to the Rome Statute.

In conclusion, I would once again like to call on the international community to support the Libyan authorities in their efforts to achieve justice and reconciliation through a strengthened judicial system. We also call on the Council and the wider international justice system to engage in a serious discussion of the current status of international criminal justice, with the ultimate goal of establishing an independent judicial system that respects the principle of the sovereign equality of States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Ms. Fatou Bensouda for her comprehensive briefing on developments pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011).

More than two years ago, Libya emerged from dictatorship and despotism and entered an era of building democracy in a State built upon the rule of law. The entire world welcomed that positive transformation, which was not an easy task. On the contrary, the sisterly country of Libya encountered intractable difficulties. Human rights were violated, and the Libyan authorities do not deny that.

The Libyan authorities have undertaken a commitment to face, at the national and international levels, the challenges coinciding with the new situation, whether in the field of security or in humanitarian, economic and social affairs. To demonstrate that commitment, Libya has even-handedly addressed violations committed against Libyans and has given priority to the judiciary in issuing laws that guarantee independence, transitional justice and the establishment of a national reconciliation commission to look into allegations of human rights violations — which the Libyan Constitution also refers to with regard to i ..ernational treaties. Tha' is very important.

The Libyan authorities have also stated that they will not protect those suspected of perpetrating crimes against humanity, nor will they allow impunity for them. By the same token, they are undertaking serious investigations, and they will try the accused in a just manner and in accordance with international instruments.

The Libyan authorities have also promised to try those responsible for crimes against humanity and to develop a plan to achieve national reconciliation, national justice and the preservation of social justice. At the same time, the new Libyan authorities, starting with the National Transitional Council, have declared their willingness to cooperate with the International Criminal Court (ICC) with a view to safeguarding justice for the victims of human rights violations. In that connection, consultations have been held to look into the matters under discussion, in a manner that corresponds with the requirements of national and international laws, through the investigation and fact-finding missions sent to Libya.

The Libyan authorities continue to emphasize their intention to cooperate with the ICC in the contex of respect for Libyan laws and international law. Libya's insistence on trying the inner circle of the former regime does not run counter to ongoing cooperation with the Court; rather, Libyan authorities are pursuing the admissibility challenges in accordance with the Rome Statute.

On that basis, we welcome the general trend in the Council to give priority to the Libyan judiciary while respecting the principles of complementarity with international jurisdictions and taking into consideration the fact that the Libyan judiciary's work in dealing with such cases should be carried out in accordance with objective, well-known and well-recognized criteria.

We are certain that the new Libya is qualified to respond to all the aspirations of the Libyan people, whatever they might be. The new Libya will remain an active partner in the Arab Maghreb Union in an effort to achieve the goals and unity we all aspire to and to avert the dangers flowing from the proliferation of secessionist terrorist groups and criminal gangs.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our full support and backing for the Libyan Government, which is, as we all know, working in a delicate security situation. We urge the international community, represented by the Council — as mentioned in the statement made by Ms. Bensouda — to provide the necessary assistance with a view to enabling the Libyan Government to face up to the challenges it faces, foremost among which are disarmament, security, border monitoring, the reintegration of former combatants, solving the problems of refugees in a manner that respects human rights and the achievement of national reconciliation. I would like to express Morocco's readiness to continue to cooperate with our brothers in Libya to develop national laws and institute national transitional justice.

Mr. Musayev (Azerbaijan): I also would like to thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, for her briefing and for presenting her fifth report to the Security Council in accordance with resolution 1970 (2011).

Azerbaijan is not a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Nevertheless, as we have repeatedly stated on previously occasions, the protection of civilians, respect for international human rights and humanitarian law and the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes are the responsibility of the international community as a whole.

Libya's progress demonstrates the irreversibility of the democratic transition process in the country. We know of the efforts of the Government towards the implementation of the required policies and strategies to address the challenges that the country is facing. We commend the Libyan Government for its constructive cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor and its engagement in the judicial process at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

As the report notes, the strength of the Rome system lies in the possibility for shared responsibilty and complementary actions between the Court and Libyan judicial institutions. During the reporting period, the Libyan authorities continued to demonstrate their commitment to ensuring an effective and genuine investigation and fair trials, consistent with the required international standards.

We note that, based on its assessment of Libya's relevant submission, the Office of the Prosecutor asserted that the case of Abdullah Al-Senussi was inadmissible and should therefore be prosecuted at the national level. We look forward to a decision by the judges of the Pre-Trial Chamber as to whether both cases remain admissible before the ICC. It is therefore essential that the Government of Libya continue to cooperate with the ICC and provide it with all the necessary information that might be needed by the Court to properly assess the admissibility challenges.

We take note of the Prosecutor's update in relation to gender crimes and on other ongoing investigations, including with regard to those individuals outside Libya who continue to pose a security threat to the Government. The close cooperation between the authorities and the Office of the Prosecutor is essential in that regard.

The Government of Libya is committed to a comprehensive strategy to address all crimes and end impunity in the country. It is important to continue to demonstrate that justice remains a key priority and to ensure that victims of all crimes have the opportunity to seek resolution within the national legal system.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Argentina would like to thank the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms. Fatou Bensouda, for presenting her fifth report pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011).

The problematic and much-discussed question of peace and justice is one that the international community has faced many times — sometimes jointly and sometimes in opposition to one another. We find it n encouraging that it has now been recognized that we cannot maintain the old justice-versus-peace paradigm, and that we must embrace a new paradigm in which peace and justice are complementary objectives. We have come to see that, de jure or de facto, amnesties do not contribute to peace, and that in some cases they have actually sent the dangerous message that serious crimes may be tolerated.

Furthermore, where criminal justice processes have been launched, we have not seen the anticipated negative consequences for peace efforts. In 2003, the Congre s of Argentina adopted a declaration of invalidity — the so-called laws of due obedience or final point, which might just as well have been called laws of amnesty, oblivion or pardon. In 2005, the Argentine Supreme Court unanimously ruled that these laws of oblivion, as they are known to human rights activists, were unconstitutional and null and void. Since then, through due process and respect for all constitutional guarantees and national justice, 378 members of the former regime have been found guilty of crimes against humanity, 232 have been accused with oral proceedings under way, and 1,013 military, civilian and religious figures have been indicted.

These legal proceedings have allowed us as a society— for instance, through the work of the Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo concerning the systematic abduction of children — to exercise our rights to truth and identity. Today, of the 500 children being sought, 107 have been found and restored to their true identity. I raise this issue because our debates on this issue have led us to the conclusion that justice contributes to sustainable peace and reconciliation. Our painful experience — only one among thousands of painful experiences that humankind has suffered and continues to suffer — allows us to affirm that social reconciliation, sustainable peace and effective and genuine democracy can be achieved through justice, truth and remembrance. I apologize for introducing such personal testimony, but I believe that the best way to participate in debates is to put one's full self into them and to testify to events in our own countries, not in order to cite them as paragons, but to demonstrate how, in different circumstances, we can seek and find responses that honour the principles of truth, justice and peace.

Argentina welcomes the assertion of the Prosecutor that previous limitations in contacts with the Libyan Government have been overcome, and that her Office renewed its contacts with the new Administration following the elections of 7 July 2012. We welcome the constructive dialogue between the Office of the Prosecutor and the Libyan delegation that recently visited The Hague. We hope that they will proceed to explore opportunities to foster the complementarity that defines the relationship between the Court and States.

Another area of potential cooperation mentioned by the Prosecutor concerns the possibility that aerial attacks by NATO may have killed or injured civilians. Like the Prosecutor, we call on NATO to cooperate fully with the Libyan authorities in their efforts to investigate casualties, injuries and damages to the civilian population.

As regards cooperation on the part of all States with the ICC, Argentina has repeatedly asserted that it is crucial and cannot be limited to the State or States parties explicitly involved, whose obligation to cooperate emanates from the Rome Statute. Argentina regrets that the Council had not reflected in clearer terms the obligation of all Member States to cooperate with the ICC when it makes a referral. At the same time, we recognize that the Council, in paragraph 5 of resolution 1970 (2011), has urged all States to cooperate with the Court in relation to the situation in Libya, pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The cases of Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi are both currently suspended by the Office of the Prosecutor due to the challenge of admissibility presented by Libya. We understand that the challenge is subject to a judicial evaluation to be made exclusively by the Court in accordance with article 17 of the Rome Statute. Argentina takes note of the opinion of the ICC regarding the inadmissibility of the *Al-Senussi* case, and calls on the Libyan authorities to comply with the decisions of the Court regarding the admissibility of those cases.

As regards the investigations under way, we hope that cooperative work will be undertaken between the Office of the Prosecutor and the Libyan authorities regarding gender-based crimes, on which the Office is gathering evidence. Moreover, with respect to crimes that may have been committed by rebel forces, we hope that the Office of the Prosecutor shall investigate

the allegations of civilian deaths, looting, destruction of civilian property and forced displacement by the Misurata militias.

We recognize that Libya has demonstrated its full readiness to cooperate with the ICC, as acknowledged by the Prosecutor herself. We call on Libya to provide the Court with all the information necessary to decide on the admissibility challenges. Like the Prosecutor, Argentina fully understands the challenges before the Libyan authorities, and commends the ICC for its willingness to support the Libyan Government in its efforts to address as many cases as possible.

Argentina firmly believes, due to its past experience, that when heinous crimes have been committed there can be no sustainable peace without justice. Therefore, beyond the competence of the ICC — which will naturally focus on those who appear to be the most responsible — it is necessary for the Libyan Government to formulate and put into practice a global strategy for combating impunity and rendering justice for those horrendous crimes. Only accountability before the law and a culture that respects human rights — which implies a culture of collective memory as a guarantee that crimes will not recur — will serve to strengthen peace and provide relief for the victims. Given the scope of the atrocities committed, Argentina believes that a comprehensive strategy that is complemented by the Court can lead to bolstering accountability before Libyan domestic courts, while at the same time making it possible for the International Criminal Court to hear those cases that Libya's judicial authorities cannot address.

Some of the elements of my statement have already been made, so I shall be brief. I would like for the record to reflect a position that Argentina has promoted, and would ask to be taken into account — that is, with regard to the Council's referrals and the situation in Libya, which entail an obligation to follow up such referrals. The Council cannot only take note of reports on the matter. We are pleased that, in its presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, the Council expressed its commitment to follow up its decisions on ad hoc tribunals and the ICC. Similarly, Argentina reiterates its concern with regard to the provision that the two referrals made to date exempt from the Court's jurisdiction nationals of States that are not parties to the Rome Statute for acts or omissions related to missions established or authorized by the Council or related to them. Also of concern is the issue of the financing of the expenses stemming from such referrals.

In each of the cases and in each of the reports — such as the current fifth report of the Prosecutor — it is relevant to rethink how the Council and the entire United Nations is going to cooperate with the International Criminal Court. At the same time, as we have indicated and affirmed, the purpose of the Court, its noble mission and its functioning under a multilateral system is to put an end to impunity, establish the rule of law, foster and promote respect for human rights and achieve lasting peace in conformity with international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. That is not something just said by this Ambassador — a human rights activist — or even by my country; it is something called for by the international community in the Kampala Declaration and its preamble.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): We thank the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms. Fatou Bensouda, for her briefing. We have taken note of her fifth report to the Security Council. We commend her hard work and strong commitment to the criminal justice system.

Pakistan is not a signatory to the Rome Statute, and thus it is not a member of the International Criminal Court. However, we recognize the rights and obligations of the States that are members of the ICC.

The formation of a democratically elected Government is a significant achievement for the Libyan people. The country has now entered the important phase of constitution-making, which is critical for its prosperous and stable future. Success in that endeavour can be achieved only with the support and cooperation of all stakeholders.

Recent events in Tripoli, however, confirm that Libya continues to face some daunting challenges. The actions of the revolutionary brigades are likely to undermine the progress so far achieved. We call upon all armed groups in Libya to lay down their arms and to engage in the democratic process and in dialogue to resolve their differences and grievances.

Libya has submitted an admissibility challenge in the case of Abdullah Al-Senussi. The Libyan Government has asserted that it is willing and able to prosecute him, and it therefore has precedence over the Court in accordance with the complementary nature of its jurisdiction. The Prosecutor's report has noted that Libya is acting fully in compliance with the

Rome Statute in challenging the admissibility of the cases against Saif Al-Islam and Abdullah Al-Senussi. We hope that the request of the Libyan authorities to try Al-Senussi and Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi will be positively considered.

We understand that the ICC would like to monitor the trials of those individuals if they are conducted in Libya. The monitoring would be done in accordance with the arrangements made between the Court and the Libyan Government. That would give an opportunity to the Libyan Government to demonstrate its commitment to holding fair trials in accordance with due process, as well as Libya's international obligations.

The ICC Prosecutor has commended the cooperation extended by the Libyan Government. We call upon the Libyan Government to maintain its engagement with the Court and to provide the necessary information for the consideration of those cases.

We also encourage NATO to fully cooperate with the Court, as well as Libya's national efforts to investigate civilian casualties during the conflict.

With regard to the investigation of other alleged crimes committed in Libya, we underline the need to conduct thorough and impartial investigations regardless of which side perpetrated the crimes.

The international criminal justice system has demonstrated that national judicial mechanisms can ultimately be more efficient and cost-effective in dealing with such crimes. The ICC and other international tribunals have succeeded in dealing with only a handful of cases. For the bulk of the cases, greater reliance on national judicial systems is advisable.

Therefore, strengthening the Libyan judicial system is essential for addressing the crimes that occurred in the country. The Libyan Government must continue to formulate and implement a comprehensive strategy to address those crimes. The international community should extend its full support to Libya to achieve that objective.

In the long run, the promotion of reconciliation is essential for fostering national unity and bridging the fissures caused by the conflict. Achieving a balance between the imperatives of justice and peace is always a difficult challenge. That can best be achieved through national mechanisms and institutions.

In conclusion, we underscore Pakistan's full support for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Libya. We wish them success in their quest for reconciliation, stability and institution-building.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): I would like to thank Ms. Bensouda for her briefing and to welcome her back to the Security Council today. The United States looks forward to continuing our active engagement with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Office of the Prosecutor, consistent with our law and policy, to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes of international concern.

Libya continues to make progress under its first democratically elected Government in more than 40 years. The Libyan people are moving forward and charting their own future, and the United States congratulates them for it.

There are clearly tough challenges ahead, from building political consensus to strengthening security and to protecting human rights. There is no doubt that justice and accountability will remain central to the success of Libya's transition and lasting peace in the country. But Libya is not alone on that path. The United States and others in the international community stand ready to assist the Libyan Government and people in reforming their institutions of justice, strengthening the rule of law, and advancing human rights and respect for international law.

We welcome the statements in the Prosecutor's report and briefing today regarding Libya's cooperation, particularly in the cases involving Abdullah Al-Senussi and Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi. As the Prosecutor noted, the proceedings involving Al-Senussi and Al-Qadhafi are reaching critical stages and will continue to attract considerable attention.

This is an important moment for both Libya and the International Criminal Court. We urge Libya to continue adhering to its international obligations, including under resolution 1970 (2011). Furthermore, the United States remains deeply concerned by allegations of rape and sexual violence, as documented by the United Nations Commission of Inquiry. We believe that accountability for those and other serious crimes is critical.

Whatever the outcome of the admissibility proceedings before the ICC, Libya will need to bolster domestic accountability structures and processes to create a strong, fair and credible system of justice. The Government must not tolerate impunity for perpetrators

of serious crimes, regardless of their affiliation or the nature of their crimes, and it should act to ensure transitional justice consistent with Libya's international human rights obligations. In particular, we urge Libya to develop and implement a comprehensive transitional justice strategy that uncovers the truth about past abuses, holds accountable those most responsible, brings justice to the victims and addresses the root causes of abuse. Only by reckoning with its past can Libya finally realize the promise of its transition.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for her report and her detailed briefing. Luxembourg fully supports the objectives presented by the Prosecutor. We can never overstate the importance of respect for the principle of accountability and the fight against impunity. Those universal goals guide the work of the United Nations and are at the centre of the international community's concerns. I also wish to commend the Prosecutor for the investigations her Office has undertaken on all the facts and evidence necessary to establish the legal accountability of the perpetrators, in accordance with the Rome Statute.

We welcome the significant progress made in Libya in terms of political and democratic transition, even though challenges undoubtedly remain, in particular with regard to security. Through the adoption of 1970 (2011), the Security Council decided that the Libyan authorities should fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Prosecutor and provide them with all necessary assistance. In that regard, we welcome the visit to The Hague on 19 April of the Prosecutor-General of Libya and the Libyan focal point for the ICC to discuss cooperation and the coordination of efforts to move the investigations forward, in accordance with the principle of complementarity. We commend the intention expressed by the Prosecutor this morning to visit Tripoli in the near future to deepen those exchanges. We believe that it is highly important for the Libyan authorities to continue to cooperate with the ICC and that the Prosecutor should enjoy the support she needs from all States, including those that are not parties to the Rome Statute, without precondition or limitation.

We await with interest the decision to be taken by the Court with regard to the admissibility challenges of Libya in the cases of Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi. That decision will require the Libyan legal system to be assessed for sufficient impartiality and independence, and for the necessary capacity to respond to the post-conflict challenges it faces. We trust that the Court and its assessment will ensure that the cases will be in full conformity with international standards. Regardless of the Court's final decision, we agree with Ms. Bensouda that the Office of the Prosecutor must be informed of all measures and decisions taken by the Libyan authorities in those cases.

We are concerned by the reports, especially those coming from the International Commission of Inquiry on Libya, with regard to sexual violence and the recruitment and use of children. We thank Ms. Bensouda for the information she provided on the ongoing investigations. We insist on the need to ensure the protection of the victims of those acts in order to prevent any risk of new suffering or potential reprisals.

With regard to the allegations of crimes committed by rebel forces, we share the concerns of the Office of the Prosecutor on the situation in Tawergha, where the violence against the civilian population perpetrated by Misurata militias could constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity. We deplore the fact that the security situation currently makes it impossible for the Office of the Prosecutor to have access to those areas.

Reprisals, such as those committed against civilians and described in the Prosecutor's report, are unacceptable. Arbitrary arrests, violence in detention centres and forced disappearances must stop. The perpetrators must be held accountable. We welcome the ongoing efforts of the Office of the Prosecutor to that end. We call on the Prosecutor and her Office to sustain their commitment along those lines, in cooperation with the Libyan authorities .

In conclusion, like Ms. Bensouda, we would like to encourage the Libyan authorities to draw up, publish and implement a comprehensive strategy to end the crime and impunity in Libya. The process initiated by resolution 1970 (2011) must run its course. That calls both for Libya's full cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor and the full support of the Security Council, the Secretariat and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. Justice must be done. Impunity cannot be tolerated. Those responsible for the crimes committed in Libya must be brought to justice and undergo a fair trial.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

for her report and briefing and, in that connection, I reiterate our full support to her. It is particularly useful that this debate was preceded yesterday by an informal interactive dialogue, which allowed us to prepare for this meeting.

The aspects touched upon today by the Prosecutor provide insight into the situation in Libya. That country is in transition after 42 years of dictatorship. Violent acts continue, including against diplomatic missions. However, the Libyan authorities, including Prime Minister Ali Zeidan, have consistently reiterated their commitment to pursuing the democratization of the country, and the Council stands ready to help them.

Libya, despite its difficulties, has asked to try Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi itself. That is an option created by the Rome Statute. It is also a tribute to that post-conflict country that it has endeavoured thereby to shoulder its responsibilities.

We welcome the Libyan Government's choice to avail itself of its right to challenge the admissibility of the case before the ICC, in full conformity with the Statute and thus in full conformity with resolution 1970 (2011) . As the Prosecutor reminded us, by law the final decision will be up to the judges of the ICC. We have no doubt that Libya, pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), will respect that decision. Libya's upholding of its international obligations is a key indicator of its commitment to the rule of law. From that perspective, we must not speak about competition between Libya and the ICC. Libya has obligations under resolution 1970 (2011) and is upholding them; that is the heart of the matter. That is also an example for other countries such as the Sudan that refuse to engage in judicial proceedings with the Court, which runs counter to Council decisions.

The Prosecutor also indicated that she would continue her investigation regarding allegations of sexual crimes committed in Libya by members of Al-Qadhafi's entourage, who may be outside of Libya. She can be assured of our support. The use of rape as a weapon of terror and a weapon of war is a crime to which the Council attaches particular importance.

With regard to the other allegations, we support the Prosecutor in the discussions she is holding with the Government on a comprehensive strategy aimed at putting an end to crime and impunity in Libya. As noted by Ms. Bensouda yesterday, the Council may have a role to play in that regard by stressing, in its deliberations and in its directives to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the issue of the security of Libyan judges and prosecutors. That is an issue that is part and parcel of all efforts to reform local judicial institutions.

Resolution 1970 (2011) remains an example of the capacity of the Security Council and, more generally, the international community to act in a unified and swift manner. Given the crimes perpetrated by Libyan officials, both the United Nations and regional organizations condemned the atrocities that were perpetrated. Resolution 1970 (2011), referring the situation in Libya to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, is at the heart of the process for identifying perpetrators, whatever their rank. It has allowed us to save thousands of human lives.

Today follow-up must be provided to that approach. The Council must be rigorous and better organize its cooperation with the ICC when it refers cases to it. That is one of the lessons that we draw from the public debate on interaction with the ICC held last year under the auspices of Guatemala, as well as yesterday's dialogue. We must be ready to better and more quickly deal with the requests for support and cooperation made by the Court. The easiest thing, of course, would be to request experts to deal with the issue in the framework of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals. We must also ensure that, in the framework of the Sanctions Committees, we respond to requests for information from the Court.

The process initiated by resolution 1970 (2011) must run its course. Indeed, that is what the Council reiterated in its resolutions 1973 (2011), 2009 (2011), 2040 (2012) and 2095 (2013). That requires both full cooperation on the part of Libya with the Office of the Prosecutor and full support from the Council. It also requires further consultation by the Secretariat and Mr. Tarek Mitri, the head of UNSMIL, with the Prosecutor, so as to ensure that UNSMIL contributes to combating impunity and supports the activities of the ICC. We must ensure, during the next UNSMIL briefing, that the Mission describes to the Council the synergies involved in upholding the mandates of each institution.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Togo.

I would like to thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC),

for her briefing, which has provided useful information on the situation in Libya, which is before the Court pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011). I wish also to thank her for the information she provided yesterday during the interactive dialogue upstream of her briefing today.

While Togo's position with respect to the Rome Statute of the ICC has not changed, we nevertheless feel that that information has allowed us to better understand the activities of and challenges facing the Office of the Prosecutor in relation to the situation in Libya with respect to the principal aspects of the issue: cooperation, the admissibility of the Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi cases, ongoing investigations and allegations of crimes committed by the various parties.

Turning to cooperation, Togo welcomes the resumption of contacts between the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC and the Libyan authorities following the elections and the appointment, on 17 March, of the new Prosecutor-General, Abdul Quader Radwan. While we encourage discussions between the ICC and the Libyan authorities, we believe that such discussions will be perceived as constructive and fruitful only if they advocate the prosecution of the perpetrators of the crimes committed, be it on Libyan soil or outside the country. A major challenge facing reconciliation in Libya is that prosecution either by the ICC or by national courts must not target one single party but all parties, so as not to give the impression of a victor's justice.

The ICC must ensure that its cooperation with the Libyan authorities correct any adverse effects that might result from any amnesty law, under the pretext of promoting or protecting the revolution, or that might aim to protect the perpetrators of crimes committed in the framework of the revolution but that fall under the jurisdiction of the Court and thus the Rome Statute.

On the issue of complementarity, Togo believes that the prosecution and sentencing of perpetrators is the responsibility first and foremost of the Libyan authorities. Togo therefore believes that Libya's decision to challenge the admissibility of the *Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi* and *Abdullah Al-Senussi* cases before the Court under the Rome Statute is a case in point and an example of active complementarity. We are pleased that, unlike in the *Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi* case, there seems to be evidence in the case of *Abdullah Al-Senussi* that could establish that the Government is prosecuting the same case as the ICC.

Nevertheless, it remains that only reference here can be the decision of the relevant chambers. That is why Togo awaits with interest the decisions of the relevant branches of the Court regarding the cases, in the hope that those decisions will promote the principle of due process and national reconciliation in Libya.

Indeed, while decisions regarding the admissibility exception in the *Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi* and *Abdullah Al-Senussi* cases will not represent a general assessment of the Libyan legal system, they will serve as an indicator of the ability of the national justice system to guarantee due process, justice for victims and the right to defence for all, as well as witness protection.

With regard to the ongoing investigations, Togo is convinced that gender crimes must not go unpunished and is pleased that the fifth report and that which preceded it confirm that those investigations are under way. Togo hopes that those investigations will be concluded and prosecution begun against the perpetrators.

Moreover, we are concerned about the recurring reports by human rights organizations of serious violations of rights in the form of torture or ill-treatment, particularly against persons of African origin on the basis of their alleged association with the Al-Qadhafi regime.

Togo also expresses its concern about the crimes committed by rebel forces in Tawergha, near Misrata, and calls on the Libyan authorities to take measures to ensure that the perpetrators of those crimes are held accountable for their actions by national courts, or to cooperate fully with the ICC. Togo therefore urges the Libyan authorities not only to draw up a strategy for past crimes but also to explore the possibilities for transitional justice to address the impacts of the crisis and political events, with the aim of promoting peace throughout the country and national reconciliation. In that regard, we reiterate our call to all of Libya's partners to spare no effort in assisting the country on the path to achieving those goals.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Libya.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank you, Sir, for having given me the opportunity to speak at this important meeting of the Security Council. I also congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month and I wish you and your delegation success as you discharge that lofty mission.

I also wish to thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for her comprehensive briefing on the work of the ICC regarding Libya. Ms. Bensouda spoke in detail about the excellent cooperation between her Office and Libya's judicial authorities. It is clear that that relationship is based on complementarity and cooperation. It is also clear that both parties are guided by the common goals of ensuring that justice is done and impunity eradicated.

Without a doubt, the talks between the ICC Prosecutor and the Libyan Prosecutor-General have paved the way for further initiatives in that vein. They may lead to a shift in that relationship, seeing it become a genuine partnership in the framework of complementarity, in the light of the suggestion that the Office of the ICC Prosecutor would investigate those who stand accused of perpetrating heinous crimes but are located outside of Libya.

The ICC Prosecutor addressed in detail the cases of Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi and the proceedings relating to those individuals. I have little to add to her statement in that regard except to reiterate that the circumstances of their arrests were in full conformity with international standards. They, like all persons responsible for heinous crimes, will be prosecuted in line with internationally recognized legal principles. All technical arrangements have been made to commence trials following the completion of investigations.

Today I would like to state anew Libya's commitment to the rule of law and to eliminating any links with the practices of the previous regime. Libyan judicial authorities have indicated their commitment to conducting impartial, objective and transparent trials of all those accused of committing crimes and perpetrating serious violations of human rights in the course of the revolution against the tyrant Al-Qadhafi, as well as under his 42-year regime.

When we talk about the rule of law, we mean that no one can be above the law. No amnesty will be given to any perpetrator of serious crimes, except by general arrangements in the framework of transitional justice and national reconciliation, with the consent of the victims or their relatives, and in a manner that promotes social harmony in the spirit of letting bygones be bygones.

I would like to emphasize that Libya views the ICC as a necessary and important partner for achieving justice, preventing impunity and providing assistance in building technical capacities. Libya hopes that all States will cooperate with the Libyan authorities and the ICC in conducting investigations and bringing the accused to justice. States should not provide accused individuals with safe haven or invoke flimsy pretexts to delay their surrender to our judicial authorities. That is especially important as delaying the handover of perpetrators will deprive our authorities of the opportunity to verify a number of claims made in the course of investigations, thus impeding the delivery of justice.

I would like to state once again that many Al-Qadhafi officials accused of perpetrating crimes remain free and are continuing to work daily to conspire against Libya and other States. I would like to remind all States that, by virtue of paragraph 8 of resolution 2040 (2012), other resolutions and the Rome Statute, all States are duty-bound to closely cooperate with our authorities to bring an end to impunity. I would like to take this opportunity to affirm that the failure to respond to calls for surrender of the accused by the States that are sheltering them will be viewed as the obstruction of justice. It is an unfriendly action that will have an adverse effect on relations between Libya and those States in the future.

I am well aware that many would like to know about the latest incidents that took place in Libya, namely, the siege of the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs as well as the pressures being put on the General National Congress to legislate gender segregation. Those actions are the result of many fanciful and rash notions held by young people following the end of the dictatorship and are rooted solely in personal interest. It is natural and expected in a situation like the one my country is going through. We are seeing immature political action and party wrangling guided by national ambitions, not necessarily ideological ones. In the case of Libya, political action has generally always been reasonable — which serves to hamper the spread of immature behaviour. In any case, it will definitely not undermine the process of political transformation.

The temporary Government is not too weak to deal with such excesses. However, it is aware of the daunting challenges it faces and is behaving wisely with respect to the difficulties presented to our fledgling institutions. Those institutions are resolved not to use force against excessive actions undertaken by armed groups who purport to operate under the Ministry of Defence. However, those groups are not very familiar with military rules or practices.

The Government is absolutely committed to preventing Libyan infighting. It will not use legitimate force, except in the cases of serious violations of the law, demonstrable threat to the lives of our people, or harm to property of the State or foreign nationals.

Despite everything I have mentioned, the Government is eager to entrench respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is constantly looking for assistance from the international community and the United Nations in order to achieve democratic transformation and the building of a stable and democratic State.

In conclusion, I would like to draw attention to the fact that the transitional phase in Libya is a decisive and momentous one for our people. The transitional Government faces a number of complex and intertwined challenges that require judicious and patient treatment that takes into consideration all aspects, with a view to improving the security situation and creating the conditions necessary for the achievement of justice and the building of State institutions on a sound basis. In turn, that will serve to energize the economy and to respond to the ambitions and aspirations of our citizens. There is no doubt that the understanding shown by the Council and the international community and their help in building the capacity of our Government will greatly contribute to the transition and the transformation of our country into a real democracy.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Prosecutor Bensouda to respond to the comments and questions that were raised.

Ms. Bensouda: I also want to express my gratitude to the members of the Security Council for their words of encouragement and support for the Office of the Prosecutor and our work.

While today the Council is not discussing the situation in Kenya, I find myself compelled to set the record straight with regard to remarks made by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has always and will always continue to respect the sovereign equality of all States. However, the ICC will not shy away from investigating individuals for any alleged crimes, irrespective of their status. On the basis of the Permanent Representative of Rwanda's statement, I must surmise that the information contained in Kenya's letter to the Council is unfounded and incorrect. It is a backdoor attempt to politicize the judicial processes of the Court. The letter referred to by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda has not been transmitted to us. We therefore reserve our rights to respond to it in detail in due course and we hope we will be given that opportunity once it has been transmitted to us.

Furthermore, it is for the presidency of the International Criminal Court to assign and reassign judges to different chambers, depending on the exigencies of the work. I reject as an unfounded attempt to discredit the work of the International Criminal Court any insinuation that the reassignment of Judge Christine Van den Wyngaert has anything to do with the working methods of the Office of the Prosecutor or of the Court as a whole.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Prosecutor Bensouda for the clarifications that she has provided.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6963

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6963rd meeting
Thursday, 9 May 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Menan	(Togo)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Sharifov
	China	Mr. Tian Lin
	France	Mr. Briens
	Guatemala	Mr. Briz Gutiérrez
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Shearman
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau, including efforts towards the restoration of constitutional order, and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country (S/2013/262)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau, including efforts towards the restoration of constitutional order, and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country (S/2013/262)

The President (*spoke in French*): Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. José Ramos-Horta, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil, to participate in this meeting in her capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/262, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau, including efforts towards the restoration of constitutional order, and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ramos-Horta.

Mr. Ramos-Horta: This being the first time I am privileged to address the Security Council since my appointment as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau, I extend warm greetings to all the members of the Council. Because of time constraints and the fact that the full text of my speech has been distributed, I will deliver an abbreviated version of it now.

From the very first day after my arrival in Guinea-Bissau in the early part of February, I undertook regular, sustained consultations with national stakeholders across the board, ranging from the Transitional President to the members of the Transitional Government, the National Assembly, the military leadership, party leaders, members of civil society, women's organizations, youth movements and religious and spiritual leaders. It is my humble view that the problem of Guinea-Bissau should be squarely placed at the feet of the political elite, who have failed their people for almost four decades.

After the political elite, the military must also take the blame. The intrusion by the armed forces into the political arena is the result rather than the cause of bad governance and underdevelopment in Guinea-Bissau. Other consequences of the failure of the country's leadership include human rights violations, impunity, organized crime and drug trafficking. Concerning the latter, the operation launched by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency that led to the arrest of the Navy's former Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto, and the announcement of the indictment of the Chief of General Staff of Guinea-Bissau's armed forces, General Antonio Indjai, constitute a turning point in the fight against drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau. They send a strong signal to the elite of Guinea-Bissau and those using the country as a transit route for drugs that the international community will not accept Guinea-Bissau's being turned into a drug-trafficking platform.

The use of Guinea-Bissau as a transit point for drugs is not in doubt. This is a regional and global social and security problem with two clear poles — the regions of production and the regions of consumption — feeding that criminal activity. I would strongly advocate for a strengthened international anti-narcotic presence in the country. In order to address this challenge, therefore, I urge that robust financial and human resources be mobilized to support the deployment of adequate expertise to assist the authorities in Guinea-Bissau and the entire chain of drug-handling from source countries through to consumption countries.

Against this background, the socioeconomic situation in Guinea-Bissau remains precarious in a context where the financial and budgetary support the country's partners are providing barely covers the Government's needs and commitments. Internal revenue generation remains inadequate. As was predicted during an International Monetary Fund monitoring mission in February, economic and fiscal performance for 2013 will improve only if the cashew harvest and commercialization season, which started at the end of

March, pick up. Food security will be compromised if local and rural cashew farmers continue to face difficulties in exchanging or bartering cashews for rice.

Compounding the socioeconomic situation is the continuing spate of salary-related strikes by workers in the public sector. In addition to difficulties in paying public-sector salaries, the Government is unable to provide basic water and electricity services. Public health and sanitation challenges are also becoming acute. The six-month rainy season will start in a week, and help is needed to avert cholera and other related epidemics.

Not everything about Guinea-Bissau is negative. On the positive side, the people of Guinea-Bissau, despite their disenchantment, are peaceful and friendly people who have never turned to crime or ethnic violence, as has been the case in many comparable situations. The country has one of the lowest crime rates in Africa, if not the world. It is safe to walk around Bissau without the standard fears one may have in many capitals of the world. If appropriate support were given to more productive, preventive diplomacy programmes, Guinea-Bissau could become a shining example of a success story.

I have sought to work actively towards realizing the directives emanating from the Council in order to ensure that all international stakeholders speak with one voice on the critical issues in Guinea-Bissau. In that context, I have continued to engage key States members of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, with meetings at the highest levels in Addis Ababa, Abuja, Banjul, Dakar, Praia, Maputo, Lisbon and Brussels. I am particularly satisfied with the frank tête-à-têtes I have had with the Heads of State and Foreign Ministers of Nigeria, Senegal, the Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Brazil and Portugal, as well as with the President of the European Commission, the Commissioner for International Development and members of the European Parliament.

I am also delighted to announce that all international partners are united on two immediate key objectives of the transition, namely, the formation of a new, more inclusive transitional Government, and the adoption of a consensus road map, with a firm commitment to holding elections before the end of the year. In addition, all agree that there is a need to restore constitutional order no later than the end of this year, on the basis of the decisions made by the ECOWAS Authority in Yamoussoukro.

I am pleased to report that in the days leading up to this meeting, some positive developments have taken place. On 25 and 26 April, the ad hoc Parliamentary Commission reviewing the transitional pact signed in May 2012 held a two-day retreat with the support of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) to finalize a draft transitional regime pact. On 28 April, Transitional President Serifo Nhamajo returned to Bissau following an absence of more than a month, and announced that an all-inclusive Government would be formed soon and elections held before the end of the year. On 29 and 30 April, all political parties, along with military, civil society and religious leaders, gathered in Parliament for discussions on the draft transitional regime pact, reaching agreement on three points.

The first of these was the confirmation of the extension of the duration of the transition until 31 December 2013, with elections to be held in November. The second was the formation of an all-inclusive transitional Government; and the third was the election of a President of the National Electoral Commission upon reception of a proposal from the Supreme Court's Council of Judges. On 30 April, the political parties signed an agreement on the aforementioned three points.

Guinea-Bissau's challenges must be addressed through a two-phase transition. First, we must support the return to constitutional order through elections. Secondly, we must assist in the post-electoral strengthening of State institutions through reforms that are underpinned not only by financial support but also the direct co-location of experts, as well as mentoring efforts, to ensure sustainable stabilization and development.

I have consistently advocated that all the people of Guinea-Bissau absorb a new political culture in which elections do not lead to the division of the country or a winner-takes-all situation. Bearing in mind the enormous challenges that the people of Guinea-Bissau face, no single political group can alone manage the transition out of the deep hole into which Guinea-Bissau has sunk and towards lasting peace and prosperity. In that regard, it will be important for all major political

parties to unite into a Government of national unity, following the next legislative elections.

The support of the Security Council and States Members of the United Nations for the elections that will usher in a new, post-election phase is imperative.

In the post-election phase, a broad coalition would provide power-sharing governmental efforts to rebuild the State that currently exists in name only. In that connection, additional material support will be crucial. The international community will be called upon to do its part. I intend to actively engage the new authorities and help them rebuild the institutions of the State, including by the co-location of international experts in key Government sectors for a period of up to five years, in order to completely reform and modernize the defence forces, the judicial system and public administration.

The defence forces will need to undergo major rethinking on the basis of a sober analysis of the security needs of the country and adjusted to the financial resources available. ECOWAS is taking the lead in that process, but there are other willing partners outside the region that are ready to contribute towards a new army for Guinea-Bissau that is more professional, imbued with a democratic culture, smaller and less costly yet more effective.

The United Nations inter-agency technical assessment mission that was dispatched to Guinea-Bissau in March suggested that the problems in the country were not insurmountable. However, solving them requires, first and foremost, strong political and financial support from the international community. In that regard, the call by the authorities of Guinea-Bissau for the United Nations to take the leadership in the electoral process so as to avoid any possible elections-related disputes or violence needs to be given serious consideration.

In conclusion, the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/262) before the Council includes the results of the painstaking technical assessment mission that I led to look into the mandate and resources needed to realize the vision to which I referred earlier, to support the efforts of the people of Guinea-Bissau and to reconfigure UNIOGBIS to play a critical advisory role. I would like to make a special plea to members of the Council to positively consider the Secretary-General's recommendations and adopt a resolution that will send a strong message of support to the people of Guinea-Bissau.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Ramos-Horta for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mrs. Ribeiro Viotti.

Mrs. Ribeiro Viotti (Brazil): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting and for inviting me to brief the Security Council in my capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). I would also like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), Mr. José Ramos-Horta, for his briefing today, for his leadership and commitment in facilitating a resolution of the current situation in Guinea-Bissau and for his inspirational work as Head of UNIOGBIS. I welcome the Permanent Representative of Mozambique and Chair of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), Ambassador António Gumende; the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire and Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Ambassador Youssoufou Bamba; and the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau, Ambassador João Soares Da Gama.

Since I last spoke in the Council (see S/PV.6915), the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission met on 1 March to hear briefings from the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr. Yury Fedotov, and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Gana Fofang. Mr. Fedotov expressed deep concern about the continued increase in drug trafficking, in particular in the aftermath of the April 2012 coup d'état, which, in turn, was closely linked to other forms of transnational organized crime. He also urged Member States and the United Nations to provide UNODC with additional resources as a matter of urgency, to avoid a shutdown of its already minimal presence in the country.

Despite that appeal and my ensuing plea to the members of the configuration, funds could not be identified, and, as the Secretary-General states in his most recent report on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (S/2013/262), UNODC had to end its presence there last month. That development is not consistent with the concerns we all share and with the need to continue to address drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau as a

matter of priority. It is important that we translate our expressions of concern into concrete actions.

The recent arrest of several nationals of Guinea-Bissau, including the former Navy Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto, on allegations of involvement in drug trafficking, and the indictment by United States authorities of the Chief of General Staff of the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau, General Antonio Indjai, for, among other charges, conspiring to import narcotics into the United States, are clear indications of the need for the international community to maintain a permanent capacity on the ground to monitor the situation and continue to provide capacity-building support to national authorities.

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Fofang, for his part, pleaded for a shift from the usual quick-fix solution approach to a more long-term perspective in the case of Guinea-Bissau, in order to halt the vicious winner-takes-all dynamics that have poisoned the country since independence. He also pleaded for continued United Nations engagement with all the relevant national and international parties in order to facilitate dialogue. I am glad to report that, as a follow-up to that discussion, the PBC will meet again tomorrow, with the participation of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ramos-Horta.

In the past few weeks, we have noticed some promising developments in Guinea-Bissau. As Mr. Ramos-Horta just stated, the draft of a new regime pact to replace the current transitional arrangements is being discussed in the National Assembly, with the active participation of the main national stakeholders, and an agreement on principles for the return to constitutional normalcy was signed on 30 April.

Such efforts need to be supported. At the same time, the international community needs to maintain pressure on the transitional authorities and on political and military leaders to achieve the swift adoption and implementation of a more inclusive transitional arrangement. The holding of free, fair and transparent presidential and legislative elections by the end of this year, thus enabling the full re-engagement of international partners with Guinea-Bissau, is also essential. A prolonged period of transition is in nobody's interest and raises questions about the political will of the transitional authorities to find a sustainable solution to the current crisis.

During the most recent meeting of the configuration, several members supported re-engagement with Guinea-Bissau, once key movements on the ground took place towards the restoration of constitutional order. There was general acknowledgment that when the Commission re-engaged with Guinea-Bissau, it should do so on the basis of a revised instrument that would reflect the key peacebuilding priorities in the current national context.

The PBC also believes that resumed Peacebuilding Fund funding should be aligned with such priorities. In that regard, both the report of the Secretary-General, including the findings of the recently deployed technical assessment mission, and the conclusions and recommendations of the joint assessment mission by the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, the CPLP and the European Union will be duly taken into account.

As an intergovernmental body with an advisory role to the Security Council, the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the PBC renews its determination to work with the legitimate authorities representing the people of Guinea-Bissau as a whole, in close coordination with other national and international partners, especially with Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ramos-Horta and his team at UNIOGBIS, to promote the necessary reforms to consolidate peace, sustain stability and promote development in Guinea-Bissau.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mrs. Ribeiro Viotti for her briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. Da Gama (Guinea-Bissau): Through you, Mr. President, my delegation wants to thank all members of the Security Council for keeping the situation in my country, Guinea-Bissau, on its agenda.

(*spoke in French*)

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month and to wish you, Sir, every success in your work.

I would like to thank Mr. José Ramos-Horta, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau, for the very informative and accurate report (S/2013/262) he has just introduced, as well as to express our complete confidence in him and, above all,

our full readiness to cooperate with him as he carries out his duties.

I would also like to thank Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Ambassador António Gumende and Ambassador Youssoufou Bamba for their ongoing efforts in the peacebuilding process in Guinea-Bissau.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the commitment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union for the financial support they have continued to provide to Guinea-Bissau during this transitional period.

I am addressing the Security Council today with a special feeling of optimism, for the one-year extension of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) recommended in the report of the Secretary-General is a testament to the staunch commitment of the United Nations to continue providing assistance to Guinea-Bissau as it seeks to build peace.

That optimism is all the greater given the fact that, as contrasted with the period preceeding the coup d'état of April 2012, today we are increasingly seeing greater understanding among the various national actors and a convergence of positions on the part of Guinea-Bissau's partner international organizations. The latter was illustrated in December 2012 when, at the initiative of the African Union, a joint assessment mission composed of the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) was deployed to Guinea-Bissau. We consider its recommendations to be important for their continued cooperation.

The presentation of this report comes at a time when Guinea-Bissau is about to enter a new phase of the transition, which is the result of the commitment of national stakeholders and in accordance with the requirements of the international community, to lead the country back to constitutional order as quickly as possible by holding free, fair and transparent elections.

In that regard, we are delighted to note that a political agreement of principle was concluded on 30 April by the various political parties, civil society and military leaders. The agreement extends the transition period until 31 December 2013, sets the holding of elections for November of this year and calls for the formation of a more inclusive Government and the appointment of the President of the National Electoral Commission.

The efforts to make the transition inclusive are further illustrated by the development of a new regime pact, which is under consideration for approval by the National Assembly. It should be underscored that, under the pact, a forum for coordination among transition stakeholders would be set up under the oversight of the National Assembly.

For several days now, the Transitional President has been carrying out intensive consultations with the various political and social stakeholders and others aimed at forming an inclusive Government. Everything leads us to believe that a Government will be established in the days or even hours to come.

We are pleased to note that the Secretary-General recommends in his report that the peacebuilding process in Guinea-Bissau be carried out in two phases. The first phase would culminate in the holding of presidential and legislative elections in a free, fair and transparent manner. The second, post-electoral, phase would be completed by the end of the mandate of the Government to be elected. That phase would focus on strengthening the political, social, economic and security environment through reforms and the bolstering of State institutions.

Guinea-Bissau alone can hardly cope with the challenges it will face during the two phases I have described, given the lack of the necessary means and resources required for such an undertaking and the extreme fragility of State institutions. For those reasons, therefore, we ask for the support of the international community and we thank it for the assistance kindly extended to our country throughout its history.

Despite the difficult situation that our country has experienced throughout its 40 years as an independent nation, Guinea-Bissau and its people still believe in the viability of our country. We will spare no effort in building the State dreamed of by our founding father, Amilcar Cabral. We will do so by carrying out reforms aimed at strengthening State institutions, in particular in the defence, security and justice sectors so that they work effectively to fight against impunity. We will do so in order to ensure that justice in our country is within the reach of every citizen and so that Guinea-Bissau is a place of peace and prosperity that is pleasant to live in.

As I speak here, every public school is once again on strike — triggered three days ago by the teachers' union at the national level. That will curtail the school year for at least one month.

The cashew harvest, which is Guinea-Bissau's main export product, is being seriously jeopardized by the lack of market credit liquidity.

Our economy — largely dependent upon external assistance — is practically in ruins following the cut-off from our major partners that resulted from the April 2012 coup.

In conclusion, it is for all those reasons that it is both necessary and urgent that humanitarian assistance be exceptionally granted to our country in order to help us overcome the current challenges.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). ECOWAS welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (S/2013/262).

Before I elaborate on this agenda item, allow me, Sir, my dear friend and brother, to congratulate you most warmly on the assumption by your country, Togo, of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May. I should like to take this opportunity also to congratulate my friend, and brother, too, Eugène-Richard Gasana of Rwanda for the outstanding manner in which he guided the work of the Council last month.

Allow me to most sincerely thank those who spoke before me, in particular Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti of Brazil, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission; Ambassador Da Gama of Guinea-Bissau, my brother; and, in advance, Ambassador António Gumende, who will be speaking on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, for their valuable contributions to our debate.

I should like above all to thank Prime Minister José Ramos-Horta, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau, for his excellent briefing on the situation in the country. I should like here to pay heartfelt tribute to him, because Prime Minister José Ramos-Horta is a true artisan of peace. Indeed, he has in a short time been able to reinstate the dialogue both among the political class in Guinea-Bissau and at the level of the international partners involved in the process of resolving the crisis in the country. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General has shown himself to be truly worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to him. He can count on the full support of ECOWAS in his efforts to achieve peace in Guinea-Bissau.

Allow me now to present the perspective of ECOWAS on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. Since the coup d'état of 12 April 2012, ECOWAS has worked tirelessly to promote the restoration of full constitutional order and guarantee a reasonable level of security for the people. The ECOWAS member States have provided the financial and technical resources necessary to keep the State functioning. They have supported the inclusive nature of the transition process and given renewed confidence to the people by maintaining an acceptable level of security through the deployment of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB). There is no doubt, however, that the complementary support of the international community remains crucial to guaranteeing the success of the transition programme and bolstering stability in the country.

Today, as has been widely noted, there are three types of challenges facing Guinea-Bissau: political, security-related, and social and economic.

On the political front, recent political developments indicate that there is an ongoing struggle to achieve a consensus among the main political parties regarding the institutions that should undergird the transition, in particular concerning the role of the People's National Assembly in coordinating the process.

There are also tensions between the Transitional Government and the People's National Assembly concerning the conduct of State affairs, as well as a low-key campaign by some political parties aimed at prolonging the political transition beyond 31 December 2013, which is the date widely agreed to.

Along those lines, I would recall that the decision on the transition date was taken by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS at their summit held in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, on 27 and 28 February 2013, following consultations with all national stakeholders and a painstaking analysis of the progress made in the implementation of the road map.

At the summit, it was also decided that, should there be an impasse in Parliament, the President of the Transitional Government, His Excellency Serifo Nhamadjo, would have to propose a new road map for adoption by Parliament. Thus the Transitional President was firm and unwavering with respect to the drawing up of a revised transition road map.

For its part, the Electoral Commission is determined to make rapid progress in its work, in particular with respect to plans relating to biometric voter registration, the demarcation of constituencies and other pre-electoral activities.

In general, there seems to be a consensus on the need in the short term to accord priority to the holding of elections and not to begin any far-reaching reforms until after the elections.

In spite of the uncertainty that prevails as to whether Parliament will approve the political transition pact, there is nevertheless hope that consensus will be reached between the parties on the adoption of the road map and the implementation of the various objectives of the transition programme. That is why it is important for the international community to recognize and support the transition road map so as to induce local stakeholders to ensure that the road map is adopted and implemented fully.

The ECOWAS member States remain determined to cooperate with local and international stakeholders in creating conditions conducive to the holding of free, fair and peaceful elections in December 2013.

In the area of security, Guinea-Bissau has seen relative calm since the deployment of ECOMIB, in 2012, and concerns of possible resurgence of violence within the army proved unfounded. However, I would note two major incidents, which are also mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General. First, there was the arrest by the United States judicial system of the former Navy Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto, for alleged drug trafficking. Secondly, there was the indictment by the American authorities of the current Chief of General Staff of the armed forces, General Antonio Indjai, for alleged participation in drug trafficking.

Those two events heightened tensions in the country. The situation was further exacerbated given the disagreement on the matter of promotions within the army, amid rumors of conspiracy and destabilization, which led to the military authorities taking stock of the situation on 20 April 2013 and subsequently making a commitment once again to cooperating in the combat against drug trafficking. Here I would reiterate the commitment of the States members of ECOWAS to supporting the international community in the fight against drug trafficking and to ensuring that the perpetrators of such crimes are punished.

However, at the same time ECOWAS remains committed to security-sector and defence reform, as these are complementary to the transition process. We support any effort aimed at addressing the root and structural causes of the crisis, in particular lack of discipline and impunity within the armed forces.

On the socio-economic front, while there have been minor improvements in the social and economic fabric of Guinea-Bissau since the consolidation of the transitional authority in late 2012, the situation nevertheless requires urgent action by the international community, in particular to support economic sectors, including fishing and cashew cultivation, as well as social sectors, including education, health-care services and infrastructure.

The economic and social crisis in Guinea-Bissau has been exacerbated by the country's isolation by the international community. The sanctions inflicted the greatest suffering on those who are poor and without a voice. It is therefore important that the sanctions be lifted and that the Security Council encourage international development agencies to relaunch their respective programmes in cooperation with Guinea-Bissau.

I would note also that in addition to their support for the democratic transition and security in Guinea-Bissau, the ECOWAS member States will continue to coordinate, along with the rest of the international community, within existing frameworks, to support the protection and upholding of the human rights of the country's citizens.

ECOWAS is also committed to maintaining its support for close cooperation between the Transitional Government and the People's National Assembly with a view to the adoption and implementation of the transitional road map and to guaranteeing the provision of financial and technical support for the National Electoral Commission. ECOWAS therefore believes that recent developments in Guinea-Bissau require us more than ever to collectively forge international

consensus and thereby demonstrate our shared desire to tackle the situation by helping Guinea-Bissau work with all relevant stakeholders to guarantee the holding of free, fair and transparent elections by December, as required by the international community.

In conclusion, in the light of the aforementioned considerations, ECOWAS would propose the following points as a basis for garnering consensus that guarantees the inclusion of all stakeholders and ensures stability and security in Guinea-Bissau.

First, as mentioned previously by Ambassador Da Gama, the revised transitional road map should, we hope, be adopted in the coming days. The road map allows for the holding of legislative and presidential elections before 31 December. It is understood that, should no solution be put forward by the National Assembly, ECOWAS reserves the right to explore all other options available to ensure the holding of the elections in the allotted time.

Secondly, the military must put an end to all residual interference in the transition process and commit to fully cooperating in the fight against drug trafficking and impunity.

Thirdly, the international community should draft an international plan of action for the medium and long terms for the purpose of assisting Guinea-Bissau in addressing the root causes of instability, as identified in the findings of the joint assessment mission of December 2012, including the full restructuring of the defence, security and justice sectors, measures to end impunity, and far-reaching reform of the political, financial and economic sectors.

Fourthly, the partners must agree on arrangements to make the transition process completely inclusive and widely recognized.

Fifthly and finally, the international community needs to agree on arrangements for extending emergency aid to achieve the immediate objectives of the transitional road map, including, naturally, the holding of elections before the end of the year and, primarily, assistance to further relieve the suffering of the most vulnerable by means of improved targeted aid and quick-impact projects to generate income.

ECOWAS stands ready, as always, to cooperate with all partners in carrying out the aforementioned objectives in order to transform Guinea-Bissau into a responsible member of the international community. To that end, ECOWAS calls on all interested stakeholders to deal with the matter of Guinea-Bissau with impartiality and openness, and invites them to put the interests of the country above all political or individual considerations so as garner true consensus with respect to the way forward.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mozambique.

Mr. Gumende (Mozambique): Mr. President, I would like to thank you for inviting me to participate on behalf the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) in today's meeting on the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

The Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/262) on the latest developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (UNIOGBIS). Those developments show that, with political will, it is possible to overcome complex obstacles through dialogue. The dialogue between local stakeholders should continue to be encouraged and fully supported by the entire international community.

The appointment of Mr. José Ramos-Horta as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau has generated new momentum that we should all seize in order to move towards a lasting solution to the crisis. The sober and objective assessment he presented to the Security Council encourages all of us to look to the future with a certain degree of optimism about Guinea-Bissau's prospects.

We welcome the recent positive developments, including the emerging consensus among national actors with regard to the imperative of holding general elections this year, the implementation of a road map, the formation of an inclusive transitional Government and the election of the President of the National Electoral Commission. Those positive trends, particularly the elections later this year, are consistent with the CPLP's calls for the use of democratic means for the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau.

We are of the view that any optimism relating to Guinea-Bissau should be moderated due to the complexity of the situation, political polarization and a deteriorating economic, social and humanitarian situation in the country, as well as the prevalence of drug trafficking. The arrest of Rear Admiral José Américo

Bubo Na Tchuto and the indictment of General Antonio Indjai by the United States authorities may give us an accurate picture of the involvement of certain military leaders and others in drug trafficking in the country.

Combating that phenomenon, supporting the political process and contributing to the implementation of many urgent reforms in the country, particularly of the security sector, will also require that the mandate of the Integrated Office for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau be reinvigorated. In addition, the establishment of a panel of experts to fight drug trafficking networks and facilitate the adoption of sanctions against traffickers would constitute a concrete contribution of the international community to overcoming the problem of drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau, and thus contributing to the promotion of stability in the country.

Another threat that deserves particular attention is that posed by the illegal fishing taking place in Guinea-Bissau's territorial waters. Appropriate measures should be taken to stop the pillaging of Guinea-Bissau's resources.

The evolution of the situation in the country requires Guinea-Bissau's international partners, particularly the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the CPLP and the European Union, to act in an increasingly concerted and coordinated manner and to strengthen cooperation to support a consensual, inclusive and nationally owned transition process that would lead to the restoration of the constitutional order, in line with the spirit of resolution 2048 (2012).

The CPLP is not indifferent to the reports of human rights violations, which the Community has persistently condemned. We therefore welcome and would confirm our support for the recommendation that the UNIOGBIS mandate be reinforced in that regard.

Let me conclude by reaffirming that the CPLP member States associate themselves with the efforts of the United Nations and the wider international community aimed at a credible, inclusive and durable solution for the crisis in Guinea-Bissau. In that context, we support the leadership and determination of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ramos-Horta to achieve that goal.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6964

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6964th meeting
Friday, 10 May 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Menan	(Togo)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	France	Mrs. Le Fraper du Hellen
	Guatemala	Ms. Bolaños Pérez
	Luxembourg	Mr. Maes
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zagaynov
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

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13-32960 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

The President (*spoke in French*): Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Portugal and the Syrian Arab Republic to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At the outset, Ambassor Kim Sook will make a joint statement on behalf of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1540 (2004), 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), and 1373 (2001). Following that joint statement, the Council will hear briefings from the Chairs of those three Committees.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Kim Sook.

Mr. Kim Sook (Republic of Korea): On behalf of the Chair of the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), on Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, 1373 (2001), on counter-terrorism, and 1540 (2004) on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) by non-State actors, I have the honour to update the Council on the continuing cooperation among the three Committees and their respective Groups of Experts, as requested by the Council in its resolutions 2083 (2012), 1963 (2010), 1977 (2011) and earlier resolutions.

Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and the risk of WMD proliferation among non-State actors continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. In dealing with that grave threat, the Security Council has emphasized the importance of close and effective cooperation and coordination among the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). An important consideration in that regard is that effective counter-terrorism measures and respect for human rights be complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Since the last update provided to the Security Council (see S/PV.6862), the three Committees continued to cooperate on outreach activities conducted within their respective mandates, enhanced their cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, conducted joint training programmes, increased the exchange of information, participated in joint meetings and engaged in reciprocal representation, as appropriate.

With respect to the challenges posed by the exploitation of technological advances by terrorists and non-State actors, including the use of the Internet as an effective communication channel, together with the rapid development in nuclear, chemical and biological technology, which increases the potential for intangible transfers, the Committees' Groups of Experts can also support States that seek assistance in building national capacities to deal with those challenges.

I am pleased to report in more detail on the areas in which cooperation has been increased.

With regard to outreach and country visits, coordinated outreach activities and country visits are important tools for the three Committees in facilitating the implementation of their respective mandates. Since November 2012, all three Groups of Experts were represented at more than a dozen workshops and other outreach events, and more meetings were attended by at least two of the groups. For example, a regional workshop for member States of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, organized by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) with the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa and with the participation of the Monitoring Team, was held in Dakar from 11 to 13 December 2012. Designed for member States of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the workshop provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the legislative, institutional and operational challenges their respective countries are facing and to identify practical solutions, promote coordination among domestic institutions involved in assets-freezing, promote enhanced international and regional cooperation with a view to ensuring swift responses to foreign requests for assets-freezing, and enhance their capacities through the exchange of experiences with international and regional experts.

From 13 to 15 March, CTED organized an event in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, with the participation of the Monitoring Team, on the issue of cooperation on border control in the Sahel and the Maghreb. During the three-day event, representatives of 11 States and 21 international, regional and subregional organizations discussed how to enhance the capacities of States to take border-control actions. In all, the Monitoring Team has participated in 21 joint country visits with CTED.

I turn now to the subject of cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations. The three Experts groups are all entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). In this regard, the CTITF continues to provide a platform for enhanced cooperation by the three Experts groups, not only among themselves, but also with over 30 United Nations organizations, agencies and programmes concerned with various aspects of counter-terrorism.

The Monitoring Team and CTED have also continued their leading roles in their respective CTITF working groups. The 1540 Committee Group of Experts participated in the Working Group on Border Management related to Counter-Terrorism and the Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction Attacks.

The three Committees have close cooperation on issues related to anti-money laundering and combating terrorism financing. One example of this cooperation is that, for the past three years, CTED and the Monitoring Team have worked together on the CTITF project on preventing terrorist financing abuse through non-profit organizations. This global initiative, which was launched at a ministerial meeting in London in January 2011 and involved five regional workshops, concluded on 7 March with a briefing to all member States. While CTED took the lead in organizing the initiative, the Monitoring Team experts were able to provide the initiative with concrete examples of the vulnerability of non-profit organizations to terrorist financing from the perspective of resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and through their own work.

The three Committees, through their respective experts, also coordinated their work in the margins of and at meetings of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary and working groups. A particularly important aspect of their cooperation in the period under review was their contribution to the agreement on the new FATF standards and assessment methodology. The joint attendance in the FATF plenary, such as in February this year, and working group meetings helped ensure that there is a unified and coordinated message in the framework of their respective mandates.

Both the 1267 Monitoring Team and the 1540 experts participated in the Counter-Terrorism Committee's special meeting on 20 November 2012 with Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations in New York to discuss measures required to prevent and suppress terrorist financing. Participants exchanged their respective experiences and challenges and suggested possible measures to address the prevention and suppression of terrorism financing, highlighting in particular the importance and value of international cooperation, joint capacity-building initiatives, and targeted technical assistance delivery.

With respect to training, a key way in which the three Committees cooperate is in staff training, which reduces costs, maximizes the number of experts trained, and facilitates staff development. CTED organized a training session on the new FATF standards from 17 to 19 December 2012 and the experts from the Monitoring Team and the 1540 Group of Experts participated. This process offers an opportunity for visiting experts and officials to meet all three Groups at once and allows the experts to explore areas of potential joint cooperation with the visiting representatives.

The exchange of information among the Experts groups continues to be carried out on a regular basis. CTED regularly shares with the other two groups the monthly reports submitted by its Executive Director to the CTC. In a new step, the three Experts groups have shared their respective working calendars of events and discussed ways of improving the efficiency of country visits and training opportunities with a view to improving value for money. The experts of the 1540 Committee prepare information notes on the Committee's outreach events and post them on the Committee's website for the purpose of transparency and information sharing.

As for joint meetings and reciprocal representation, the three Experts groups continue to hold joint meetings where appropriate, whether involving the heads of each team or the expert teams, in order to prepare for relevant outreach activities and to exchange information on particular themes or activities in specific regions or countries. In addition, the CTC extends invitations to the other two Experts groups when arranging briefings by visiting officials of intergovernmental organizations or when organizing thematic briefings of

mutual interest. On 7 February, both the 1540 Group of Experts and the Monitoring Team participated, at the invitation of the CTC, in a briefing by Mr. Aleksey Kuzyura, Head of the Working Group of the Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations of Foreign States of the Russian Federation.

I turn now to future additional steps. The work of the three Committees, when considered together, present opportunities for further synergies which, when fully exploited, would result in a multiplier effect for the delivery of results. It should be possible to achieve these improved results while maintaining respect for the independence of the respective Experts groups and their mandates.

On the basis of current coordination and cooperation, each of the three Committee's staff and Experts groups are committed to further joint cooperation in a number of areas. These include, but are not limited to having regular meetings between the three Committees at the Committee level and/or between chair countries; increasing engagement in on-site visits to States, at their invitation, to facilitate the implementation of each of the resolutions; coordinating on a common regional approach to engage with Member States with geographical and political similarities; coordinating on key thematic areas that are of interest to all the Committees in order to benefit from information- and experience-sharing and effective practices; enhancing coordination in implementing projects within the CTITF framework, in particular through the various thematic working groups; coordinating on approaches to donor States and assistance providers and joint evaluation of outcomes; considering developing joint assistance packages for States, at their request, and where appropriate; and enhancing joint interaction, particularly with non-reporting States, in fulfilling their reporting obligations under relevant resolutions. The 1540 Committee should consider sharing its summary reports on outreach events with the other Committees.

This concludes my joint statement to the Security Council. I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Chair of the 1540 Committee.

I take this opportunity to give an overview of the main developments in the work of the 1540 Committee since our last joint meeting on 14 November 2012 (see S/PV.6862). At the outset, I should like to inform the Council that the Committee's Group of Experts is now at its full complement of nine, as envisaged in resolution 2055 (2012).

On 27 December 2012, the 1540 Committee transmitted to the Security Council the review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for 2012. Building on the status and experience of implementation, the Committee set out a list of tasks in the "Looking ahead" section of this review. I am pleased to report that good progress has been made in fulfilling these tasks. We will soon transmit to the Council our twelfth programme of work, which is now under discussion within the Committee. I believe that the programme of work will optimize the efficiency of the Committee, map out specific priorities to promote the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and set up the guidance for the work of the Committee over the next 12 months. Guided by the principles of transparency, equal treatment, cooperation and consistency in its approach, the Committee has continued to focus its attention on raising global awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) and facilitating assistance to States in strengthening national capabilities to implement its requirements and lay the foundation for improved mechanisms for sharing effective practices for national implementation and promoting collaboration with other international organizations.

Resolution 1977 (2011) calls upon all States that have not yet presented a first report to submit such a report to the Committee without delay. There appears to be a better understanding of the challenges of national implementation and the development of tailored strategies to facilitate assistance for overcoming challenges, and assistance that also supports the implementation of relevant international obligations and national security and development priorities. In that regard, the Committee has developed an approach to the 24 non-reporting States in an effort to achieve universal reporting, if possible, by the end of 2014, which will be the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004).

In accordance with its mandate, the Committee continued to further facilitate "matchmaking" between assistance requests and offers. Since the previous briefing, the Committee received an additional official request for assistance from the Central American Integration System (SICA) secretariat on 15 January, which requested funding for the continuation of the SICA 1540 programme of work, including the position of the 1540 regional coordinator within the SICA

secretariat to assist SICA member States. In accordance with the established procedures, the Committee has passed on the request to those States and international, regional and subregional organizations that have offered to provide assistance for their consideration, and first responses have been received. The Group of Experts is now working on identifying and analysing assistance needs and continuing consultations with officials from States, in facilitating existing and new assistance requests.

Paragraph 8 of resolution 1977 (2011) encourages all States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee, as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee. We are pleased to report that, since our previous briefing, Kyrgyzstan has submitted its national implementation action plan to the Committee. We note that Kyrgyzstan's plan also contains a request for technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the specific measures of the plan. A good example is the national implementation action plan drafting session held in April with representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina's ministries and agencies. According to the information received by the Committee, a number of other States, supported by the Group of Experts, are in the process of updating or preparing their initial national action plans.

Paragraph 11 of resolution 1977 (2011) encourages the 1540 Committee to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including through visits to States at their invitation. From 17 to 19 April, I personally led a visit to Trinidad and Tobago, accompanied by the members of the Group of Experts. During the visit, I had an opportunity to hear first hand from the acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago of their efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004). The discussions demonstrated the high level of commitment and determination by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago towards the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). That was the first visit to a State of the Latin American and Caribbean region, and the first one to be led by the Chair of the 1540 Committee. Since the previous briefing, the 1540 Committee has also received invitations to carry out similar visits from Grenada, Mozambique and the Republic of Moldova.

In accordance with resolution 1977 (2011) and within its mandate, the 1540 Committee has continued to engage in various outreach activities to serve its objectives. Since 14 November 2012, the 1540 Committee and its experts participated in 33 outreach events organized by various international, regional and subregional organizations in collaboration with various Governments and, in many cases, with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

From a thematic point of view, those outreach events promoted the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) through direct action with States by Committee members and the Group of Experts to help enhance their national implementation arrangements. In addition, visits were conducted specifically to review particular issues such as export and border controls, nuclear security, biosecurity, industry outreach and proliferation financing. In the spirit of transparency required by resolution 1977 (2011), information about those outreach events is posted on the 1540 Committee website. While some of those activities have been conducted directly with States, we have found regional organizations particularly helpful as key players in the facilitation and the successful conduct of those events. For example, to further cooperation between the Committee and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), I will take part in the meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation to be held in Vienna on 15 May.

Paragraphs 14 and 18 of resolution 1977 (2011) call upon the relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to designate and provide the 1540 Committee with a point of contact or coordinator for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and for assistance. I would like to note that, since the prevous briefing, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea and Austria have either submitted or updated their point-of-contact information. For intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has revised its point-of-contact information, and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has designated its point of contact. That will further facilitate cooperation with the Committee to implement the resolution.

On February 27, the Committee sent out letters requesting all Member States to submit information on their 1540 implementation status, as well as on points of contact. Such a living network of contacts could serve

to improve communication and interaction with and among States. I would take this opportunity to request the cooperation of all Member States in that regard.

The Committee also continued its interaction in that area with academic institutions, civil society and representatives of industry, as appropriate. Let me note that, in February, I had a meeting with Ms. Mireille Ballesrazzi, President of the INTERPOL Executive Committee, to discuss future cooperation. INTERPOL indicated that the 1540 obligations could be incorporated into its law enforcement capacity-building programmes. INTERPOL will also join the list of potential assistance providers in that regard.

Transparency is an essential principle guiding the work and activities of the Committee. In accordance with resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee continued to institute transparency measures and activities, including by making the fullest possible use of its website. The Committee's working group on transparency and media outreach is currently discussing the future media strategy of the Committee, including with regard to the upcoming tenth anniversary of the resolution. From 22 to 24 April, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia organized a workshop in New York, focused on the League of Arab States, on the theme "Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors: the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Arab World". The event was a good example of a State's promotion of awareness of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) and of the practical implementation of the resolution's provisions within the region. It was one of a series that also included training for customs officials in collaboration with the World Customs Organization.

I would like to conclude by reiterating my commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). As we celebrate its tenth anniversary next year, we will work at full throttle to fully consolidate universal political will towards the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. At the same time, the Committee will continue to address all aspects of the resolution in order to leave no stone unturned. In that regard, we particularly look forward to closer and more practical cooperation with the Committees, and to hearing new ideas to improve our joint efforts to counter the scourge of terrorism. For our part, we believe that closer cooperation among us is vital and that, in particular, we should make every effort to support one another's outreach activities, as consistent with our respective mandates.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassador Kim Sook for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Quinlan.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): The threat posed by Al-Qaida to international peace and security remains a pressing aspect of a number of issues on the Council's agenda, not only in its deliberations on international terrorism, but also across country situations, including Somalia, Mali and Yemen. Since the most recent report (see S/PV.6862) of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, Al-Qaida affiliates in the Maghreb have waged a vicious insurgency in Mali, threatening the viability of that State and security in the region. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula continued to be a strong factor affecting the ongoing security situation in Yemen, and Al-Shabaab remained an ongoing threat to the security environment in Somalia.

In today's briefing I will focus on the principal areas of work of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee since the adoption of resolution 2083 (2012), last December. The first is about effectively addressing the evolving threat to international peace and security posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates, with a particular focus on the Committee's work in addressing recent challenges posed in Mali and the Sahel region by Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the Mouvement pour l'unification et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest and the Ansar Eddine. The second area concerns ensuring that regimes' application remains relevant and effective, and the third that the sanctions regime has clear and effective procedures.

A more detailed version of this statement will be distributed in hard copy today and made available on the Committee's website.

Since my predecessor's last briefing, in December, the threat to international peace and security from Al-Qaida has continued to evolve as Al-Qaida affiliates have exploited local grievances in order to further Al-Qaida's global agenda. In accordance with its mandate under resolution 2083 (2012), the Committee has been working to ensure that the regime remains relevant and effective in response to that evolving threat. In particular, since its most recent report to

the Council, the Committee has sought to improve the application of 1267 sanctions to address the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates in Mali and the Sahel.

In resolutions 2100 (2013) and 2085 (2012), the Council reiterated its readiness to sanction further individuals, groups, undertakings and entities who do not cut off all ties to Al-Qaida and associated groups. In response, the Committee has applied the sanctions to the Mouvement pour l'unification et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest and to Ansar Eddine, entities closely linked to the organization of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, as well as to the leaders of, and other individuals associated with, those groups. The Committee's efforts to ensure that the Al-Qaida sanctions list reflects the nature of the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates in Mali and the Sahel are part of a sustained drive to make full use of the tools available in the context of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime to counter the evolving threat.

To that end, as directed by the Council in paragraph 62 of resolution 2083 (2012), the Committee held a special meeting on 9 April to consider ways by which the 1267 regime could improve its response to the latest developments of Al-Qaida in the Sahel and Mali, including outreach and technical-support activities to the region on implementing and applying the sanctions measures. The meeting brought together the Monitoring Team, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, as well as other relevant departments and offices of the United Nations. It highlighted the need for continued monitoring of the role of those groups in Mali and the Sahel, with a more central role for capacity-building efforts in the counter-terrorism realm. In that regard, the Committee and the Monitoring Team look forward to constructive engagement and cooperation with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, as requested by the Council in paragraph 31 of resolution 2100 (2013).

The Committee is making every effort to ensure that the sanctions framework is as effective a tool as possible in preventing Al-Qaida and its affiliates from threatening international peace and security. Part of that effort requires that the Al-Qaida sanctions list be as up-to-date and accurate as possible, to facilitate the implementation of the measures. The Committee considers it extremely important that individuals confirmed to be deceased are removed from the list, while ensuring that any assets forming part of the deceased's estate, if unfrozen, are not used in connection with activities threatening international peace and security. In that regard, the Committee de-listed Osama Bin Laden on 21 February. In accordance with paragraph 32 of resolution 2083 (2012), the Committee will ensure that assets frozen as a result of Osama Bin Laden's listing will not be transferred to listed individuals or entities, or otherwise used for terrorist purposes, in line with resolution 1373 (2001).

The Committee is pleased to inform the Council that it has begun to implement the special agreement it concluded with INTERPOL facilitating the exchange of information between the Committee and INTERPOL and streamlining the maintenance of joint United Nations-INTERPOL special notices. That can be expected to improve the quality of information on the Al-Qaida sanctions list and enhance the implementation of the measures via INTERPOL's special-notice distribution system.

The Committee has also continued its periodic review of the sanctions list, focusing particular attention on entries that lack identifiers necessary to ensure effective implementation of the measures, entries of entities that are reported or confirmed to have ceased to exist, and entries that have not been reviewed in three or more years. The responsiveness of Member States remains crucial for the successful implementation of those reviews.

Through the adoption of resolution 2083 (2012), the Security Council has further enhanced the fairness of the sanctions framework through the introduction of provisions giving individuals and entities on the sanctions list the ability to submit requests for exemptions to the assets-freeze and travel-ban measures, through the focal-point mechanism established in resolution 1730 (2006), for the consideration of the Sanctions Committee. The Council has also authorized the Ombudsperson to request that the Committee consider exemptions to the travel ban for the purpose of allowing petitioners to travel to another State to be interviewed by the Ombudsperson. The Committee has introduced these changes into the guidelines for the conduct of its work, setting forth clear procedures to be followed by listed individuals and entities wishing to avail themselves of those new provisions.

Furthermore, the Committee has implemented the provisions of paragraph 12 of resolution 2083 (2012),

which reverse the assumption that a State proposing an individual or entity for listing wishes to have its status as a designating State kept confidential, by dispatching letters to all designating States on file to solicit their views as to whether the Committee or Ombudsperson may make their status as a designating State known.

The Office of the Ombudsperson continues to fulfil a key role in supporting the Committee's efforts to ensure that the application of sanctions continues to reflect the current threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates. Since the most recent briefing to the Council, the Committee has delisted five individuals and retained two listings on the basis of reports submitted by the Ombudsperson. In addition, as of 9 May, three comprehensive reports of the Ombudsperson were under consideration by the Committee, and the Ombudsperson had one case in the dialogue phase and 11 cases in the information gathering phase.

Since the most recent briefing to the Security Council (see S/PV.6862), the Committee has also provided reasons to petitioners, both in cases where the Committee has acceded to or rejected delisting requests, through the Ombudsperson. The provision of reasoned decisions to the Ombudsperson for onward transmittal to the petitioner is a significant indicator that fair and clear procedures exist within the Al-Qaida sanctions framework. The Committee will continue to pay heed to due process principles to ensure that the listing and delisting process is imbued with fairness and transparency.

I now turn to my concluding observations. The events of the past few months in Mali and the Sahel region have illustrated the continued threat to international peace and security posed by Al-Qaida and affiliated groups. The Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee's efforts to comprehensively address that issue included, for the first time, a special meeting held pursuant to paragraph 62 of resolution 2083 (2012). That is a valuable forum, which the Committee will use, as appropriate, in other relevant contexts.

We should not forget, however, that the Al-Qaida sanctions regime can only be as effective as the sum of its parts, and a key element of that framework is the application of the measures. The Committee endeavours to keep the list as updated and accurate as possible through specialized reviews, the success of which to a large part depends upon Member State engagement. I therefore call on all Member States to continue their positive engagement with the Committee.

In concluding, I would also like to recognize the efforts of the Monitoring Team, without which the Committee simply would not be able to do its work.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassador Quinlan for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Loulichki.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco): It gives me great pleasure to brief the Security Council today on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001). The most recent briefing was held in November 2012 (see S/PV.6862).

The Committee continues to be guided in its work by the relevant Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010), and continues to play a critical role in promoting and facilitating their implementation.

In accordance with its programme of work for 2013, the Committee is organizing a special meeting, open to the wider United Nations membership, and two other special events focused on key aspects of the Committee's mandate. The first special event, to be held on 24 May, will focus on countering terrorism through the use of new communication and information technologies. In organizing the event, the Committee seeks to explore with Member States recent technological advances, good practices and effective measures taken, in particular, in the areas of the movement of persons, mobile telecommunications and the Internet, within the framework of implementing resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). The Committee looks forward to the participation of all Member States in that interactive discussion.

The Committee will also organize a special meeting on enhancing cooperation and technical assistance to States in the Sahel region to strengthen their capacity in the global fight against terrorism. That special meeting is expected to take place in the last quarter of 2013.

The Committee has agreed to hold a third special event, on enhancing the capacity of States to counter terrorism at their borders through technical assistance and the sharing of good practices. The Committee will further explore a possible link between that topic and the one selected for the special meeting.

Furthermore, as part of its outreach efforts, the Committee will continue to explore the possibility of collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

In December 2013, the Committee will submit to the Security Council a report on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) for consideration by the Council as part of its comprehensive review of the Executive Directorate. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1963 (2010), the Committee will submit the report to the Council prior to the expiration of the Executive Directorate's mandate, on 31 December.

Through CTED, the Committee has completed the replacement of the preliminary implementation assessment by the detailed implementation survey, and the overview of implementation assessment. The new diagnostic tools were the object of a briefing to Member States that I had the pleasure to chair last week. They will allow for an enhancement of the Committee's work in identifying challenges faced by Member States and facilitate the delivery of targeted technical assistance in that regard.

The Committee continues to focus on region-specific discussions and on issues identified in the 2011 global survey. The Committee also continues to organize and participate in discussions and workshops on thematic issues. Some of the major thematic issues considered by the Committee during the past six months include the facilitation of technical assistance by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and CTED, alternative remittance systems and the Committee's cooperation and dialogue with the relevant international and regional organizations, in particular the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.

CTED has also been active in conducting a number of workshops on specific topics. Important workshops organized during the period under review include the initial global meeting on effective international cooperation by central authorities, which took place in Cartagena, Colombia, from 19 to 21 February; the fourth seminar of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the theme "Bringing terrorists to justice: policy challenges in the prosecution and prevention of terrorism", which took place in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, from 26 to 28 February; the final workshop led by CTED on behalf of the Working Group on Tackling the Financing of Terrorism of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), aimed at protecting non-profit organizations from terrorist financing abuse, which took place on 5 and 6 March; the conference on border control cooperation in the Sahel and the Maghreb, which took place in Rabat from 13 to 15 March; the sixth regional workshop for police officers, prosecutors and judges in South Asia on effectively countering terrorism, which took place in Kathmandu from 18 to 20 March; and, lastly, the first regional workshop for law enforcement officers and prosecutors in East Africa on effectively countering terrorism and bringing terrorists to justice, which took place in Kampala from 7 to 9 May.

Upcoming workshops that CTED is active organizing or co-organizing in the coming weeks include the joint Council of Europe, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and CTED workshop on special investigative techniques, which will take place in Strasbourg, France, on 14 and 15 May; the regional workshop on controlling the cross-border movement of cash and bearer-negotiable instruments, to take place in Pretoria on 27 and 28 May; the East Africa regional workshop on assets-freezing requirements of resolution 1373 (2001), which will take place in Dar-es-Salaam from 4 to 6 June; and the second regional workshop on international joint investigations, which will take place in Langkawi, Malaysia, also from 4 to 6 June.

In addition, the Committee and CTED continue to enhance their ongoing dialogue with Member States, donors and beneficiaries on the facilitation of technical assistance for capacity-building at the national and subregional levels. Since the most recent briefing to the Security Council (see S/PV.6862), CTED, on behalf of the Committee, has conducted four assessment missions to Member States: Qatar, Morocco and Serbia, as well as a fact-finding mission to Angola.

I would like to emphasize that the Committee and CTED have continued and will continue to pay close attention to the question of respect for human rights and the rule of law in the counter-terrorism measures taken by States, in accordance with the relevant mandates conferred by the Security Council.

The Committee and CTED continue to work closely with the relevant working groups of the CTITF, United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism and the Global Counter Terrorism Forum in order to support, coordinate and complement one another's counter-terrorism endeavours.

The Committee will continue to play a critical role in the global fight against terrorism, and will strive to do so in a more strategic and transparent manner so that

it can more effectively contribute to the global counter-terrorism effort within the scope of its mandate. I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation and consideration to Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director of CTED, and to his able team for their excellent work on the Committee's behalf, and to thank the Secretariat for its valuable support.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassador Loulichki for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to members of the Council.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): Two years after the death of Osama Bin Laden, we are reminded that terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Though Al-Qaida's core is now weaker, the recent attacks in Boston and Mogadishu, Baghdad and Karachi remind us that, although we have made progress, the struggle to combat terrorism endures. We must continue to work together to adapt to evolving threats and terrorist tactics.

We know the key components of a comprehensive United Nations approach to countering terrorism. Those include preventing the resurgence of Al-Qaida, building State capacity to counter terrorist threats, and making sure terrorists do not acquire the most dangerous weapons. The work of the Security Council's three counter-terrorism Committees reflects this integrated approach. We commend the Committees and their expert groups for their outstanding work. We express particular gratitude to the new Chairs — Australia, Morocco and the Republic of Korea — for their leadership since January.

The Al-Qaida sanctions regime remains one of the Council's most effective tools for countering the growth of Al-Qaida and its affiliated groups. As a signal of the international community's resolve, those sanctions identify the most dangerous individuals and entities affiliated with Al-Qaida. They also help stop attacks by limiting terrorists ability to travel, acquire weapons and finance their operations. Yet those sanctions work only if we implement them effectively. We therefore encourage States to propose listings to the Committee and to improve their capacities to enforce those measures.

We would like to welcome Alexander Evans to his new role as Coordinator of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team. We encourage him and his Team, in collaboration with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, to focus on implementation challenges, particularly in those States where sanctioned individuals and entities are located. The Committee's recent meeting on terrorist threats in Mali is a great example of how we can best focus our attention on areas of key concern.

Finally, we remain committed to ensuring that the Committee's procedures are fair and we commend Ombudsperson Kimberley Prost for her vital work.

The success of our counter-terrorism efforts will depend on States' abilities to take effective action domestically. The Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) continue to help States to build those capacities. We commend the leadership of its Executive Director, Mike Smith, to whom we are grateful for his service over the past five years. The United States remains committed to supporting these capacity-building initiatives, including those focused on training police, judges, prosecutors and border security officials at the regional and subregional levels.

We are pleased with the increased emphasis that CTED is placing on the promotion of the rule of law in its work and on the essential role of civil society. We are gratified by the growing number of joint projects involving both CTED and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, thereby leveraging each entity's comparative advantages. We hope that collaboration can be replicated within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre as we continue to promote strategic coordination among the United Nations counter-terrorism entities.

The appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, as proposed by the Secretary-General, would further strengthen and focus our collective counter-terrorism efforts. The United Nations should also continue to work with multilateral entities, such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. Such collaboration can help build increased international capacity to bring terrorists to justice within a rule of law framework, counter violent extremism and prevent kidnapping for ransom. We also look forward to the United Nations developing a close partnership with the new International Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism in Abu Dhabi.

The risk that non-State actors will gain access to weapons of mass destruction remains one of the greatest threats to international security. For nine years, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) has been dealing with that threat. During that time, many countries have strengthened their laws, procedures and capabilities to deter and counter that threat. Many countries have improved the ability to stop the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their delivery systems. States have also bolstered their ability to stop the illicit spread of related materials to non-State actors. While that progress is welcome, the United States continues to urge all countries needing assistance in that field to request it. We also encourage those countries and other bodies capable of providing such assistance to offer it. We have donated a total of $4.5 million to the United Nations Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities to help implement resolution 1540 (2004), and we encourage others to contribute as well.

We look forward to the development of the 1540 Committee's twelfth programme of work. With a more robust Group of Experts and a mandate extending to 2021, the Committee has an opportunity to develop a strategic approach to meeting the goals set out in resolution 1540 (2004) for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is a long-term process that requires engagement with regional, subregional and intergovernmental organizations, civil society and industry. The celebration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) next April will present an opportunity to expand outreach and focus on efforts needed to further implementation.

We encourage the Council's counter-terrorism Committees to guide and reinforce States' actions to respond to that threat. Under the capable leadership of the Chairs, we think that the Committees have great potential to accelerate their contribution to our collective efforts to counter terrorism, as well as the violent ideology that underpins it.

Mr. Zagaynov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank the Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Korea, Australia and Morocco for their detailed reports on the Committees they chair. We take note of their fruitful work in the context of their chairmanships.

Terrorism, despite all of the efforts of the international community, remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. That is evidenced by the ongoing terrorist attacks in various areas of the world, to which innocent people, including children, daily fall victim. It is clear that terrorism adapts itself to new realities at breakneck speed, becoming ever more serious and acquiring new dimensions. More often than not, terrorist attacks are occurring in regions of the world where this phenomenon had never before been seen.

Of most serious concern today are the developments in Syria and the region. Almost daily, the region is witnessing terrorist attacks, the uncontrolled proliferation of weapons and infiltration by combatants. We condemn in the strongest terms terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever committed. We expect other countries to take the same unwavering stance in combating this global scourge.

Double standards, the categorization of terrorists as good or bad, and any attempts to justify barbaric activities are absolutely inadmissible. Against that backdrop, the activities of the three counter-terrorism Committees and the strengthening of their cooperation play a key role in increasing the effectiveness of the Security Council in the fight against terrorism.

We believe that the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is the cornerstone and the foundation of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture. Recently the Chair of the CTC, M. Loulichki, briefed Member States on the updated format of the basic documents for the review of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and improvements to the rules for its work with respect to the outcome of country visits. We are convinced that those reforms and the continuation of the practice of country visits will allow the CTC to more effectively carry out its mandate, complementing the process of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the work being done in this area by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

Given the growing instability in various regions of the world, we must prevent any further radicalization of populations and the triggering of sectarian or inter-religious clashes. In that regard, we deem of fundamental importance the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), focusing on preventing terrorism, limiting the range of terrorist activities, combating the spread of terrorist ideology and violent

extremism and the use of media and the Internet for terrorist purposes.

Of particular importance here is the strengthening of the CTC's contacts with organizations in the international arena in order to expand the network of counter-terrorism cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations. In that regard, we note the contacts of the CTC, as well as the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), with the Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations on terrorism-related issues, which was conducted by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. In our view, the briefing to the CTC by representatives of the Meeting have proved to be valuable.

We continue to value the role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in providing assistance to the CTC. We should like to express our gratitude to the outgoing Executive Director, Mr. Smith, for his contribution to resolving the daunting challenges before the CTED under its mandate, as set out in resolution 1963 (2010).

The 1267 and 1989 Committee remains one of the most effective mechanisms in the Security Council's counter-terrorism efforts. Its sanctions list should adequately reflect the Al-Qaida threat, which, as recent events in the Arab world and in Africa show, remains significant. We support the proposal to include new entries on the list. We believe also that the Committee must swiftly respond to existing threats without excessive bureaucratic red tape and consider States' listing requests, guided by its mandate to combat terrorism.

However, the practice of the adoption of sanctions against individuals and entities involved in terrorist activities must continue to be based on a case-by-case approach, in line with the relevant procedures.

The mandate of the Ombudsman on delisting and the procedure for considering requests for exclusion from the list set forth in resolution 2083 (2012) ensures optimal transparency in the work of the Committee. However, a more important task is enhancing the effectiveness of sanctions mechanisms, which is dependent on the implementation by Member States of their international obligations in that area.

Unfortunately, as practice has shown, unresolved issues remain. These include, running counter to paragraph 4 of resolution 2083 (2012), the Kavkaz Center website, an information portal for the terrorist organization Emarat Kavkaz, which in July 2011 was included on the sanctions list. That site continues to promote terrorism and religious intolerance.

Preventing weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery from falling into the hands of terrorists remains one of the most important challenges for the international community. A key instrument for doing so is resolution 1540 (2004), which provides, inter alia, for the implementation by Member States of the measures necessary to strengthen national systems for monitoring and control in the field of non-proliferation. Russia continues to support the implementation of that resolution by all countries, fully taking into account the complex and long-term nature of its requirements.

We support the efforts of Ambassador Kim Sook to ensure the effective functioning of the 1540 Committee on a regular and predictable basis. The work of the Group of Experts has made a significant contribution to the Committee.

In the context of the Committee's activities during the past six months, we would highlight the report on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In addition to being a review, it takes note of the progress made and charts a course for the future work of the Committee.

With respect to future work, we suggest that the Committee attach greater importance to the issue of the provision of assistance to States in carrying out the tasks set out in resolution 1540 (2004). The Committee's coordinating role in the relevant efforts of the international community is crucial. For its part, Russia will continue to actively participate in those activities, including in the context of our cooperation with the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): Let me thank the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), Ambassadors Quinlan, Loulichki and Kim Sook, for their comprehensive briefings today and for the effective manner in which they have taken on leadership of those Committees.

Terrorism continues to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. No Member State can adequately respond to the challenges of terrorism by

acting alone. Only through continued cooperation will the international community be able to tackle a problem that transcends geographical borders.

The United Nations has an important role to play. It is crucial that the States Members of the United Nations strive to work together in an ever more collaborative and comprehensive manner. True collaboration requires breadth and depth of cooperation. A comprehensive approach requires making full use of all the tools available to us.

The three Committees under discussion today are powerful tools. We fail in our responsibilities if we do not use them effectively, thoroughly and creatively to combat the threat of terrorism.

Al-Qaida sanctions play an important role in the fight against terrorism by imposing targeted financial sanctions on Al-Qaida operatives, denying them arms and restricting their travel, in other words, limiting their ability to carry out terrorist acts.

The United Kingdom welcomes the recent unanimous adoption of resolution 2083 (2012), which, inter alia, extended the mandates of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Monitoring Team. The United Kingdom would like to pay tribute both to Kimberley Prost and to the Monitoring Team for their continuing exemplary work. We will continue to work with members of the Sanctions Committee, the Ombudsperson and other interested parties to embed the changes agreed under the new resolution to further enhance the Committee's important work. For the regime to be effective, sanctions must be diligently implemented. We welcome recent work by the Committee under Ambassador Quinlan's leadership to focus on implementation, including through consideration of outreach and technical support activities.

The threat that chemical, biological or nuclear materials may proliferate to terrorists has been a growing concern to the international community over the past decade. The year 2014 will mark the tenth anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004), the only international instrument designed to prevent terrorists from acquiring those weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). But the resolution will only ever be as effective as the will of the States Members of the United Nations to implement its measures. For that reason, the United Kingdom urges States that have yet to meet their reporting obligations to do so. We call on all States to design and execute national action plans to fight trafficking in WMDs.

We realize that the immense scale of the challenge means that Governments and civil society must act in concert to fight the threat. We therefore urge States requiring support for implementation to approach the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for assistance. Our goal must be universal implementation of the resolution by 2014, and to achieve that the Committee and its Group of Experts, whose work we commend, must also play their part in continuing to seek opportunities to form partnerships with international organizations and regional agencies that have the resources to match those requests for assistance, including by using the consolidated list of assistance requests as soon as possible.

The United Kingdom continues to welcome the recognition by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) of the need for States to pursue a cooperative approach to defeat terrorism. We wish to mark our deep appreciation of Mr. Michael Smith's very effective leadership of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate as he nears the completion of his term.

Acts of terrorism and the threat of such acts touch on much of the work of the United Nations. It is important that all the relevant components of the United Nations system work together to counter terrorist challenges while avoiding duplication across its infrastructure. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force are key tools to that end.

Today, in particular, the United Kingdom urges the three Committees whose reports we have heard to continue to intensify their collaborative efforts. We are grateful to Ambassador Kim Sook for his briefing on the joint work of the Committees and encourage further collaboration along those lines.

The United Nations must also strive to work effectively as much as possible with other multinational organizations working on countering terrorism. For instance, we look forward to increased cooperation as a result of the regular European Union-United Nations counter-terrorism dialogue. The United Kingdom also recognizes the important contribution that the Global Counterterrorism Forum can make to tackling the terrorist threat and encourages the United Nations to continue its work with that body.

The international community has a collective responsibility for tackling terrorism. Only through continued cooperation and recognition of the need to strengthen collaborative efforts will States be able to effectively counter terrorism.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Let me, first of all, express my thanks to the Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Korea, Morocco and Australia for their informative briefings and for the work they are doing at the head of the subsidiary bodies that they are chairing. I wish to express the gratitude of our delegation for the way in which they are conducting the work of the three Committees.

Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is a threat to human life and dignity, to peaceful coexistence and to international peace and security. In saying that, I also say that my country, Argentina, fully believes that the United Nations has a central role to play in the multilateral action being undertaken. We therefore believe that the General Assembly and the Security Council and its relevant bodies are the most appropriate forums for efficient action to prevent and eradicate terrorism.

The work carried out by the three Committees we are considering today on combating terrorism is vital to ensuring effective action on the part of the international community in that regard. Therefore, continued cooperation among the Committees and its Groups of Experts will undoubtedly make a contribution to bolstering coordination and consistency across United Nations counter-terrorism activities. We also believe that holding open briefings is a very useful outreach tool to spread information about the work of the Committees and for maintaining an ongoing dialogue with all Member States, so much so that we must continue to stress that greater participation by Member States in open meetings of the Security Council is a goal worth achieving.

A major challenge for the international community in combating terrorism is that of avoiding any chance of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their delivery systems falling into the hands of terrorists. In that regard, resolution 1540 (2004) and its Committee is a key instrument in that it urges States to adopt or strengthen their national monitoring systems in order to prevent the proliferation of such weapons.

Argentina is firmly committed to the non-proliferation of WMDs and their delivery systems, while it develops and implements dual-use technologies for peaceful purposes to further economic growth, scientific and technological innovation and sustainable development. In that respect, I wish to recall the fact that Argentina is the only Latin American country to be a part of the five export-control regimes. Furthermore, pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent resolutions, my country has submitted its national reports and updates highlighting the domestic legislation that has been adopted to comply with our international obligations and which is under constant discussion and review. In addition, Argentina is one of the six countries that, pursuant to resolution 1977 (2011), have submitted national action plans defining our priorities and plans in implementation of the fundamental provisions of resolution 1540 (2004).

Beyond our national endeavours, we believe that the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) must be carried out through a regional approach adapted to the specificities of each instance, as the effective control of technologies and dual-use materials is possible only possible by means of real harmonization of operational and legislative efforts in each region. The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) therefore carries out extremely important work in providing international assistance and cooperation, which, we believe, must be maintained and strengthened, thus building States' capacities to implement the resolution.

As we approach the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) next year, Argentina, like others, believes that it is important for the Committee to adopt a creative approach, keeping in mind the specificities of each State to ensure the universal implementation of the resolution and submission of reports.

The efficacy of international efforts to combat terrorism is contingent upon the ability of each State to adopt and implement national measures within the framework of the specific features of each region. In that regard, the Counter-Terrorism Committee plays an essential role in making the international community's efforts more effective. We believe that the new diagnostic and assessment tools for implementation adopted by the Committee, the implementation assessment summary and the detailed implementation study will make it possible to improve the Committee's work still further and will contribute to the fulfilment of its mandate as it completes the efforts of the United Nations in implementing its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

and the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

We emphasize the importance of the special meeting held this year on strengthening cooperation and technical assistance to States of the Sahel region, as well as the special events on the use of new information and communications technologies in combatting terrorism and the strengthening of States' capacities to fight terrorism on their borders. I also highlight the important work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in assisting the Committee and in strengthening the capacities of States. I note in particular its work with respect to human rights as a cross-cutting element in the fight against terrorism.

Argentina reaffirms that terrorism must be fought in the framework of the rule of law and respect for fundamental guarantees. In that context, I thank the Executive Directorate and the Committee for their visit to the Argentine Republic in 2012. We believe that visits to States are a very useful tool for monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) in the context of the circumstances of each country and the nature of the potential terrorist threats it faces.

Finally, I refer to the work of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning which we highlight the improvements made in the consideration of requests for exclusion, and in particular the work of the Ombudsman. On the basis of the independence that it has developed its work, we believe that proposals should be considered to strengthen its mandate and replicate its experience in other Sanctions Committees. We understand that the Security Council should continue to ensure that sanctions enforcement bodies become ever more efficient and transparent, and that they are endowed with appropriate mechanisms to follow up and review the measures taken.

I reiterate our support for all initiatives that contribute to strengthening coordination and cooperation among the three Committees and their expert groups, including through information briefings like today's. That will undoubtedly improve the Security Council's contribution to the fight against terrorism, as it will encourage greater cooperation and commitment among Member States in improving the implementation of the relevant resolutions.

Ms. Bolaños Pérez (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like first to thank the Ambassadors of Australia, Morocco and the Republic of Korea for their informative briefings and for the great skill and dedication with which they lead the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council under their respective responsibility.

These joint meetings are very useful for examining terrorist threats from a wider perspective. They also contribute to strengthening the coordination and coherence of the activities of the system.

With last year's adoption of resolution 2083 (2012), we have helped to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations sanctions regime as a tool to combat terrorism and to strengthen the Organization's legitimacy. However, this is an ongoing objective; much remains to be done and we are confident we will find a way to harmonize the political processes with the law. We look forward with interest to the forthcoming negotiations on renewing the mandate of the Committee established to resolution 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), which will offer an opportunity to improve and strengthen the credibility of the sanctions regime.

The process of including and removing names on the list should be guided by the same set of principles: fairness, credibility and transparency. Only thus can we ensure that sanctions lists are truly effective. We hope that as we move forward, we will keep this crucial requirement in mind above all.

It is essential that all sanctions regimes established by the Security Council be fair and transparent in their operation. They must ensure due process in their working procedures and decision-making. Important steps to tat end include enhancing the powers of the Ombudsperson and reforms of the delisting procedures. The Ombudsperson is now better positioned to play an important role in helping people in the consideration of their cases. We must ensure that this is done in a way that strengthens our ability to combat terrorism, and that it has no impact on the functioning of other sanctions regimes. Of particular interest to us would be extend the mandating of the Ombudsperson to cover all Sanctions Committees. I congratulate Kimberly Prost for the independence, professionalism and courage with which she performs your job.

We commend the role of the Monitoring Team of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) at a time when the nature of the threat is evolving, and we recommend seeking ways to update the sanctions provided for in resolution 1267 (1999). This regime of sanctions is one of the most important

multilateral tools for combating terrorism available to the international community. Mr. Evans and his team have our full support in the effective discharge of its mandate.

In regard to the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), the terrorist attacks that have occurred recently are another sad reminder to us all that we must stay the course towards achieving the goals we have set in order to combat and ultimately eliminate terrorism. This work began with the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001). We note that the United Nations has made significant progress in the fight against terrorism since the adoption of that resolution.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate deserves special mention for its contribution to helping States keep up with the evolution of the risks and threats posed by terrorism. The close interaction of the Executive with Member States is a prerequisite for the effectiveness of the work of the Committee and the full implementation of the commitments made in the fight against terrorism.

We also commend the hard work of the Executive Directorate at the conclusion of the review of instruments for the assessment of the implementation of the resolution. The revised evaluation process not only ensures transparency, consistency and objectivity in the summaries of the Committee, but also extends many areas of cooperation between the Committee and Member States.

We encourage to the Executive Directorate to pursue its activities in capacity-building and offering technical assistance to countries that request it. Of particular importance is the need for greater emphasis on the conditions conducive to the existence and spread of terrorism. We believe that the effectiveness of our efforts in the fight against terrorism is related to our ability to successfully meet the economic, social and political that often feed this phenomenon.

Finally, we support the initiatives of the Counter-Terrorism Committee aimed at promoting the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). We commend the Committee for defining such thematic issues as the role of central authorities in improving international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. We look forward to the scheduled events in 2013.

Finally, regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), there is no doubt that resolution 1540 (2004) is an important complementary tool for preventing weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related materials from falling into the hands of non-State actors, in particular terrorists. The Council recognizes the value of the Committee and the importance of its work, as demonstrated by the renewal of its mandate until 2021 through resolution 1977 (2011), which also defines the role of the Security Council in these areas and creates conditions for promoting related multilateral efforts.

The 1540 Committee plays a key role in coordinating and increasing the effectiveness of these efforts. As the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) approaches, we believe that its chairmanship is leading the Committee down the right track, inter alia, by exploring ways to improve the implementation of the resolution and the number of reports by Member States. Likewise, it is important that the Committee and its Group of Experts continue to promote furthering intensification by the international community of its activities to combat proliferation risks and threats. In particular, we believe that cooperation between the Committee and international organizations, including the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), concerning counter-terrorism, must be continued and deepened.

The 1540 Committee is furthermore an indispensible mechanism for the support and assistance it provides to Member States in strengthening and developing their capacities to tackle those threats. Guatemala recognizes and welcomes that work and we urge the Committee to continue seeking means to facilitate communication between donors and States that request assistance.

We accord the highest importance to the work of the Group of Experts established by resolution 1977 (2011). In that context, we welcome that the Group's new experts have already taken up their duties, as noted in the previous briefing. Without the support provided by those experts to Member States, and to developing countries in particular, it would be very difficult for us to establish action plans, produce national reports or make progress on measures to implement the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004).

Furthermore, the Group of Experts provides significant support to the Committee's working groups. We reiterate that it would be useful to diversify the

Group of Experts, in particular by incorporating experts from developing countries. Such a decision would be very helpful in promoting ever greater understanding and application regarding these important issues among a great number of Member States.

We reaffirm our unequivocal commitment to achieving the goals of a safer world, free of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. We therefore attach great importance to this Committee and have, since the beginning of the year, been honoured to coordinate the working group on monitoring and national implementation, in which we hope to make a constructive contribution to the work of the Committee.

Mr. Nduhungirehe (Rwanda): Let me join others in thanking Ambassadors Kim Sook of the Republic of Korea, Gary Quinlan of Australia and Mohammed Loulichki of Morocco for their respective statements. I take this opportunity to commend their efforts and the activities undertaken by their respective Committees under their able leadership.

We welcome the holding of this briefing today, which we believe is timely, ahead of the debate on the challenges of the debate on the challenges of the fight against terrorism against Africa to be presided over on Monday by His Excellency Mr. Faure Gnassingbé, President of Togo. We believe that the focus on this topic in the month of May demonstrates the commitment of Togo and African countries to combat terrorism on the continent and in every corner of the world.

My delegation welcomes the Counter-Terrorism Committee's initiative to organize a special event this year focusing on a key aspect for the Committee's mandate. We welcome in particular the topics chosen for the special events — the use of communication and information technologies, technical assistance to States in the Sahel and enhancing the capacity of States to counter terrorism. Indeed, those topics address the main concerns of the moment in the fight against terrorism.

In the same vein, we express our continued engagement with international and regional partners, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to contribute to enhanced coordination of international efforts to prevent and combat terrorism.

We applaud the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, for its continued contribution to the fight against terrorism. We commend the transparent work of the Ombudsperson and support the regular review of the Al-Qaida sanctions list as an essential element for maintaining accuracy and responding to the changing nature of the threat. We therefore urge designated States to cooperate and share information with the Ombudsperson in order to better serve justice.

We further welcome the listing of Malian terrorist groups, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in Western Africa and Ansar Dine, for their close ties with Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, as well as other individuals associated with those groups.

We are alarmed by the scourge of terrorism in Mali and the African continent, and we hope that the 1267-1989 Committee will plan an important role in that regard, in full cooperation with national Governments and with peacekeeping missions, such as the newly established United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. We encourage the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to support and coordinate with the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, whose mission is to strengthen among between African countries in order to prevent and combat terrorism and to assist in the full implementation of international conventions relating to terrorism.

Rwanda is firmly committed to the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as they continue to threaten international peace and security. We are deeply concerned by information on the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict, and we hope that investigations will continue to be carried out in an independent manner to shed light on this serious development in the Syrian conflict.

Rwanda is committed to the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and we are encouraged by the fact that ever more countries are submitting national reports. We call on the remaining countries to submit their reports, and we hope that they will continue to benefit form the support of the Committee and the Group of Experts in order to ensure that all countries are on-board by the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), in April next year.

We take this opportunity to commend the efforts of the 1540 Committee in raising global awareness about the resolution, in strengthening the capacity of States, in improving mechanisms for sharing best practices

and in promoting synergy with other international organizations and United Nations institutions, in particular the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

We emphasize the need to collaborate with regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union. In that regard, we believe that the practice of holding workshops on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) specifically organized for African States must be pursued, as the remaining countries are mainly on the African continent.

It is encouraging that the three Committees are closely cooperating on key thematic areas of interest to all by coordinating on the implementation of projects, regularly exchanging information and best practices, as well as improving collaboration with regional and subregional organizations. We encourage them to strengthen that cooperation, in particular by implementing the specific recommendations that Ambassador Kim Sook presented in his joint statement on behalf of the three Chairs.

In conclusion, we once again commend the efforts of the three Committees to enhancing the visibility of United Nations counterterrorism activities, the fight against weapons of mass destruction and cooperation with global and regional organizations with a view to making the world a safer place.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): We thank Ambassadors Kim, Quinlan and Loulichki, Chairs, respectively, of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, the Counterterrorism Committee and the 1540 Committee, for their briefings today. We appreciate the efforts made by the three Committees to promote greater transparency and dialogue with Member States.

Pakistan's comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism is based on three "Ds", namely, deterrence, development and dialogue. Deterrence is necessary to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate the terrorist threat. Development helps to meet basic human needs, build community resilience and prevent terrorism. Dialogue is equally important: those who are willing to renounce violence should be brought back to national and societal mainstreams.

Terrorism continues to mutate into new and more sinister forms. Terrorists use new information and communication technologies, as well as the Internet, for recruitment and incitement and for planning and financing their activities. We should address the root causes of terrorism; deprivation, marginalization, exclusion and stereotyping often create the conditions for a drift towards terrorism. That drift should be halted. Our collective and national measures to counter all forms of financing of terrorism, including through the proceeds of organized crime and illicit narcotics trafficking, should be made more effective. Counter-terrorism efforts must adapt to such challenges and develop strategies for real-time quick responses.

We agree with the Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities that Al-Qaida still poses a serious threat to international peace and security. The experiment of focusing the 1989 Committee's work on Africa is timely. Today, the traditional Al-Qaida organization is a shadow of its former self. The nature of the threat, even if diffused, is much more complex. Al-Qaida has splintered into disparate cells. Its affiliates thrive on local grievances; many do not have a global agenda. Moreover, the phenomenon of individuals radicalized by extremist websites is not always based on their formal association with or membership of Al-Qaida or other terrorist groups. In many instances, terrorists do not require elaborate financing arrangements or visits to training camps and safe havens. All that is needed is electronic safe havens and some websites providing inspiration and training materials.

We hope that while addressing traditional issues, such as travel bans and assets-freezes, in an effective manner, the Committee will also pay attention to the changing forms of the threat posed by Al-Qaida affiliates and self-radicalized individuals or lone wolves. We appreciate the recent efforts to introduce fair and clear procedures into the Al-Qaida Committee and to strengthen the role of the Ombudsperson. It remains to be seen whether those changes will satisfy courts around the world, since the legal community is more likely to require verifiable evidence that is acceptable in a court of law. The questions of due process and effective remedy are at the heart of courts' deliberations. We hope that the Ombudsperson's positive contribution will have an exemplary effect on other sanctions regimes. We support the work of the Monitoring Team on updating narrative summaries of reasons for listing, and welcome its new head, Mr. Alexander Evans.

We support the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to build States' capacities to implement

resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). We appreciate the Committee's focus on the use of new communication technologies and technical assistance in the Sahel region in its planned special events later this year. We commend Mr. Mike Smith for his outstanding leadership of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). CTED has done substantial work in updating the format of the preliminary implementation assessment. Even if all questions of the newly introduced detailed implementation survey are not strictly based on resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), we are confident that it will prove to be a useful diagnostic tool for facilitating technical assistance to Member States. The CTED seminars on specific teams and various regions have been useful. We are planning to hold our regional seminar on counter-terrorism for police officers, prosecutors and judges in South Asia in Islamabad in the near future.

Pakistan has made considerable progress in countering terrorist financing and controlling borders. We have deployed 150,000 troops on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, and set up 822 posts in order to intercept Al-Qaida and Taliban members. Pakistan has become a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and has enacted a landmark anti-money-laundering law. A financial monitoring unit has been established in the State Bank of Pakistan to track suspicious financial transactions. Hundreds of bank accounts have been frozen. We are implementing the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. Pakistan is an active member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering. Since the most recent briefing to the Council (S/PV.6862), Pakistan's Parliament has passed two new laws on counter-terrorism and a national counter-terrorism authority.

The full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all States remains one of the key tools for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and its Group of Experts play an important and complementary role in relation to the treaty-based regimes and international organizations in the field of non-proliferation. We support the efforts undertaken by the 1540 Committee and its experts in areas such as awareness-raising, outreach implementation and assistance in capacity-building. We commend the Group of Experts' valuable assistance to the Committee, and particularly recognize the professional contribution of Mr. Terence Taylor and his able associates.

In our view, the long-term impact and success of the 1540 Committee will depend on the role it can play in mobilizing assistance to Member States. Assistance in capacity-building should be the Committee's cornerstone for ensuring effective national implementation by States. We support efforts to promote cooperation and coordination among the subsidiary bodies of the Council. That objective is best served when such joint activities are consistent with the mandate, independence and nature of the work of each subsidiary body and group of experts.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Ambassadors Kim Sook, Quinlan and Loulichki for their briefings. I appreciate their leadership roles as the Chairs of, respectively, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).

China appreciates the efforts of the 1540 Committee to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions. We support it in its steady and reliable work in raising Member States' awareness of resolution 1540 (2004), as well as in promoting the exchange of experiences and assistance among them and their achievement of various resolution goals in a comprehensive, balanced and effective manner. We hope they will smoothly complete the annual renewal of their programmes of work. China is ready to work together with all in participating in the Committee's work and advancing the international non-proliferation process.

The Al-Qaida Committee remains an important mechanism for counter-terrorism at the Security Council's disposal. In accordance with resolutions 1989 (2011) and 2083 (2012), it recently updated its guidelines, improved its exemptions procedures, strengthened its review of listing and delisting requests and updated its sanctions list, while maintaining good cooperation with the Ombudsperson and the Monitoring Team. China appreciates all these efforts. We support the Committee as it continues to work in a cautious, objective and organized fashion, and we hope that Member States will continue to support and cooperate with its work in order to protect the authority and effectiveness of the sanctions regime.

China appreciates the efforts of the CTC in comprehensively implementing resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). We support its work, carried out with the help of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, in improving the preliminary implementation assessment and related work, promoting the exchange of information and experiences, and providing technical assistance through workshops and other activities, such as the special events on enhancing cooperation and technical assistance to States in the Sahel region to strengthen their capacity in the global fight against terrorism and on enhancing the capacity of States to counter terrorism at their borders through technical assistance the sharing of good practices. We hope the Committee will continue its dialogue with Member States, strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations agencies and help Member States, especially developing countries, in capacity-building in the fight against terrorism.

China rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. China rejects any double standard in dealing with counter-terrorism. We support the United Nations and the Security Council in the international cooperative effort against terrorism. We hope that the international community will continue to cooperate in the common effort to prevent and combat terrorism.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): I would like to begin by thanking Ambassadors Kim Sook, Gary Quinlan and Mohammed Loulichki for their briefings and extensive updates on actions taken over the past six months. We are grateful for their excellent work and leadership of the Security Council Committees with counter-terrorism mandates.

Although the international community has achieved remarkable progress in countering terrorism, more should be done to prevent and combat that scourge. Terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security and to the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and social and economic development of all States. Azerbaijan has consistently and continually taken measures to implement its respective international obligations and to contribute to international counter-terrorism efforts.

We know all about the scourge of terrorism, and not from hearsay. My country has repeatedly been a target of terrorist attacks that have claimed the lives of thousands of our citizens. It was therefore no coincidence that Azerbaijan decided to focus on strengthening international cooperation in implementation of counter-terrorism obligations central theme of its presidency of the Security Cou in 2012. As an important outcome of that, a presider statement (S/PRST/2012/17) was adopted.

On 18 and 19 March, we hosted an internatio conference on strengthening cooperation in prevent terrorism, which was jointly organized by Government of Azerbaijan, the United Nations Of on Drugs and Crime and the Islamic Educatio Scientific and Cultural Organization, and atten by representatives of over 50 States and internatio organizations, including the Counter-Terror Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terror Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). objective of the conference was to focus on coopera in developing and undertaking measures to addr the conditions conducive to the spread of terrori dialogue, understanding and countering stereoty and the appeal of terrorism, and the role of internatio partners in building State capacity to prevent combat terrorism.

The role and work of all three Committees in prevention and response to terrorist threats rem vitally important. Azerbaijan strongly supports close cooperation and effective coordination among Committees and their groups of experts.

During the reporting period, the Commit established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) contin to successfully implement its mandate by support and assisting Member States in preventing terro acts, both within their respective territories and acr regions. We commend CTED for its close interact with Member States, including country visits, wh continue to contribute to the effectiveness of b the Committee's work and the full implementation counter-terrorism commitments. Azerbaijan suppor the proposed subjects for the special meeting and t other special events that covered emerging issues international concern, and we are confident that t will help to raise awareness and reveal the shortcomi in the fight against terrorism.

The revision of documents and procedures rela to the assessment of Member States' implementat of the Security Council's counter-terrorism resoluti was an important milestone in the Committee's w during the reporting period. We agree with the Chai the Committee that the revised documents will facilit the identification of challenges faced by Member Sta

and the delivery of targeted technical assistance in that regard.

Significant steps were taken during the reporting period to reinforce the procedures of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. We note some important changes introduced by the adoption of resolution 2083 (2012), in particular the extension of the mandate of the Monitoring Team and the Office of the Ombudsperson, which will contribute to strengthening due process and transparency. We reiterate the importance of the Office of the Ombudsperson as an essential element of fairness in the application of the sanctions regime.

The work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) remains of vital importance. We take positive note of a number of important events held during the reporting period in various countries, focused on promoting the goals of resolution 1540 (2004) and on capacity-building and assistance. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for having organized, last month, a high-level event on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors and the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Arab world.

Areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, often create conditions conducive to exploitation by terrorist, separatist and other non-State actors. The accumulation of a great number of armaments and munitions in places beyond the reach of international control and the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials to non-State actors pose a serious threat to international peace and security that requires the diligent implementation by all States of their respective commitments and strengthened cooperation among them in order to effectively address such challenges.

Last but not least, the war on terrorism should not be used to target any particular religion or culture. That principle must be part and parcel of any counter-terrorism strategy. We stress the vital need for joint efforts and dialogue to counter defamatory manifestations and misconceptions, in particular within the framework of such initiatives as the culture of peace and the Alliance of Civilizations.

Mrs. Le Fraper du Hellen (France) (*spoke in French*): I naturally align myself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

I would like to thank Ambassadors Kim, Quinlan and Loulichki for their briefings. We note in particular that in the joint briefing, the opportunities for synergies between the Committees was highlighted.

With respect to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), we highlight once again the extent to which the threat from Al-Qaida, in various forms and degrees, continues to affect every Member State. The most visible and the most worrying manifestation are spreading to cover entire regions. TheAl-Qaida Sanctions Committee plays an indispensable role in addressing that threat. Its decisions, which must be implemented by all, are an essential tool. If this system is to continue to be effective, several elements are, in our view, crucial.

First, the list of persons and entities subject to sanctions should follow the evolution of the threat, and the adoption of resolution 2089 (2012) in December 2012, by extending the criteria for listing, has contributed to that. The regular updating of the list is essential. To that end, we encourage all Member States to continue to submit to the Committee requests for inclusions on the list, so that the list can best reflect the state of the threat. It is indeed in that spirit that the Security Council has called for the adoption of sanctions against groups linked to Al-Qaida operating in Mali, including the Movement for Unity and Jihad in Western Africa and Ansar Dine. In that regard, I would like to commend the initiative taken by the Australian presidency to organize thematic meetings on those groups.

If the list is to be credible, the mechanism and procedures for delisting must respect the fundamental freedoms of people on the list. By creating and then strengthening the mandate of the Ombudsperson, recent resolutions have allowed for progress to be made towards that goal by improving safeguards. The adoption of resolution 2089 (2013) has strengthened the institution of the Ombudsperson by making it sustainable and by improving support and increasing the transparency of its procedures. The work of Ms. Prost remains essential for us.

With regard to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), France attaches particular importance to its work in promoting the exchange of experiences. The presentation made yesterday by Saudi Arabia from the Prince Mohammed Bin Nayef Centre for Counselling and Care is an example of that.

We also welcome the initiative taken by the Moroccan Chair to organize special meetings on specific themes. Capacity-building in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel States and the prevention of terrorism through new technologies are excellent topics that will give added value to our work.

I further wish to acknowledge the work done by Mike Smith and the entire Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate in helping the Committee to revise the procedures by which States report on their implementation of the resolutions to the Committee. I note in particular the meeting on 2 May that introduced new evaluation documents, which was an excellent initiative. The large number of participants are a testament to the relevance of that tool.

With regard to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), like others I underscore the fact that the possibility that radiological, biological, chemical or nuclear weapons could fall into the hands of non-State actors or terrorists is a real danger that concerns us all. Resolution 1540 (2004) plays a key role in the prevention of those risks. In that regard, we welcome the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution since its adoption in 2004.

Today, a large majority of States have taken steps to implement the provisions of that resolution. Universality seems achievable. We commend the efforts of the South Korean chairmanship to bring us as close as possible to universality on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the resolution in 2014. Now fully staffed, the Group of Experts will be all the more able to assist the Committee in its outreach work. Country visits allow for privileged dialogue on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004). In that connection, we welcome the recent trip of Ambassador Kim Sook and that of several experts to Trinidad and Tobago.

The Committee plays a key role in assisting the implementation of the provisions of the resolution. In that regard, we note the request of the Central American Integration System, and we hope that it will be dealt with and responded to as soon as possible.

Certainly, much remains to be done. We must continue to strengthen cooperation of the 1540 Committee with other international actors, particularly in the area of assistance. One of the areas of dialogue that we believe should be strengthened and continued is that with the Group of Eight Global Partnership on that topic.

Mr. Maes (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): Like previous speakers, I wish to thank the three Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) — Ambassadors Gary Quinlan, Mohammed Loulichki and Kim Sook, respectively — for their detailed briefings and for the efficiency and commitment with which they steer the work of the Committees. I thank Ambassador Kim Sook for his joint briefing, which clearly illustrated the increasing cooperation among the three Committees.

It is important to remember why the Council regularly organizes these information meetings. The news unfortunately shows that terrorism remains a major threat to peace and international security. The three Committees under discussion are at the forefront of the efforts of the United Nations to fight that threat. However, the Committees' work is effective only if all Member States take the measures necessary to uphold their obligations. Today's open briefings are therefore important because they allow the Council to transparently demonstrate to all Member States what its subsidiary bodies are doing in the fight against terrorism and to listen to the concerns of Member States in that area.

I associate myself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

In that regard, I wish to underscore that the fight against terrorism must be guided by fundamental democratic values and respect for the principle of the rule of law. We commend the measures taken by the Security Council in recent years to ensure the implementation of clear, fair and transparent procedures in the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. Resolution 2083 (2012) brought significant changes to the sanctions regime, making it more efficient and transparent. We must continue to improve those procedures within the Council.

Luxembourg fully supports the Office of the Ombudsperson created in December 2009, whose mandate was enhanced and extended in December 2012 for a period of 30 months, until June 2015. We thank Ms. Kimberly Prost for the exemplary manner in which she carries out her mandate. We call on all Member

States to continue to fully cooperate with the Office of the Ombudsman in all cases.

The events of recent months in Mali and the Sahel have demonstrated the evolution of the terrorist threat and the need for ongoing updating of the sanctions list in order to maintain the relevance and effectiveness of the regime established by resolution 1267 (1999). Given the threat of Al-Qaida and its affiliated groups in Africa, the Security Council has adapted its response to effectively fight the terrorist scourge, making use of all the tools at its disposal. In its resolutions 2085 (2012) and 2100 (2013), the Council reaffirmed its determination to punish individuals, groups, enterprises or entities that will not break their ties with Al-Qaida and its affiliated groups, such as Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. The 1267 Committee applied Al-Qaida sanctions to the Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest and Ansar Dine, as well as to the leaders of those groups and individuals associated with it. We also encourage cooperation between the 1267 Committee and the Monitoring Team and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, pursuant to paragraph 31 of resolution 2100 (2013).

Luxembourg also attaches great importance to the work of the 1373 Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), particularly to their outreach role. Given the current state of the terrorist threat, it is necessary to strengthen programmes for capacity-building of the Sahel States. In that context, we welcome the Rabat conference on border-control cooperation in the Sahel and the Maghreb, jointly organized by CTED, the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism and the Government of Morocco, which was held from 13 to 15 March. We also welcome the fact that the Committee will organize again this year a special meeting on cooperation and technical assistance to States in the Sahel region in order to strengthen their capacity in the fight against terrorism.

I would also like to underscore the important in-depth analysis work done by the Executive Directorate with regard to Member States' implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. Work reviewing the assessment tools has been under way for several months to improve the quality and the clarity of the analyses provided by CTED. We note with satisfaction that the Executive Directorate has introduced a new mechanism, which was presented to Member States at an open meeting of the Committee on 2 May. We are confident that it will further improve the work of the Committee by better identifying the problems faced by Member States and thereby better targeting technical assistance to help Member States in solving their problems. I take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the Executive Director, Mr. Mike Smith, whose term ends on 30 June, for his work at the head of CTED.

The risk of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security; no State can solve that problem alone. The possibility of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) falling into the hands of non-State actors or terrorists is a real danger that concerns us all. With the presence of chemical weapons in Syria being confirmed, we are extremely concerned about the security of those stockpiles and about the risk of uncontrolled proliferation, which would be disastrous for the stability of the region. In that regard, it is urgent that the commission of inquiry set up by the Secretary-General travel to Syria and that it be provided with full access so as to enable it to investigate all credible allegations of the use of chemical weapons.

Resolution 1540 (2004) plays a key role in preventing the risk of proliferation, but its effective implementation requires the commitment and cooperation of all States. In that respect, the work of the 1540 Committee is of particular importance. We urge all Member States to report to the Committee on their efforts. We support the objective of the Chair of the Committee to achieve by next year, if possible, the universality of reports, so as to mark the tenth anniversary of the 1540 Committee.

Cooperation, the exchange of information and outreach and support activities all are important factors in building the capacities necessary to counter the risk of the proliferation of WMDs. The Committee, with the support of its new panel of experts, is in a good position to provide assistance and technical advice.

In concluding, Mr. President, I should like to congratulate your country, Togo, on having taken the initiative to convene on Monday a debate on the combat against terrorism in Africa. The threat of terrorism should indeed be a matter of priority for the Council. While we have seen significant progress in the fight against that scourge, we must remain vigilant. We must continue our collective efforts so as to better combat and eventually eradicate the terrorist threat, which is constantly evolving.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Togo.

I would like at the outset to thank most warmly the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), the Ambassadors of Australia, Morocco and the Republic of Korea, for their briefings on the activities of their Committees and for their commitment to ensure the effective discharge of the mandates that the Council has entrusted to those three subsidiary bodies.

I should like also to express our gratitude to the Ombudsperson and to the expert panels of the various Committees for their work.

In my statement, I will address the cooperation among the three Committees and stress the importance of assisting and strengthening States' capacities, particularly in the case of those with the scarcest resources, where the need is most acute.

Cooperation remains the most appropriate way of ensuring efficient and effective action against terrorism. That cooperation, which is being developed among the various counter-terrorist bodies, among States and between States and those bodies, must be bolstered as concerns the discharge by the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council of their respective mandates. That cooperation is even more important inasmuch as it makes it possible to rationalize the efforts of the various stakeholders and to avoid any duplication of effort or wasting of energy.

In that regard, Togo wishes to welcome the multifaceted cooperation that has been institutionalized among the Committees, particularly as concerns outreach and country visits and cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations. Those mechanisms provide opportunities for the three Committees to remind all parties concerned of their obligations under the various relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

It goes without saying that the convening of meetings and information exchange make it possible to achieve the goal of zero tolerance for terrorism, preventing it and combating it in all its forms and manifestations by means, inter alia, of the creation of formal networks of counter-terrorism professionals.

Technical assistance and capacity-building are another key element of the mechanisms for the combating of terrorism. Recent developments in the activities of terrorist groups, particularly in the Sahel region and in Mali, have shown that the capacities and the military and security abilities of States may on occasion be outdistanced by the ability of terrorists to adapt and to mobilize considerable military and financial resources.

Against that backdrop, States must express their needs in the areas associated with the fight against terrorism. The shortcomings and difficulties faced by States in implementing their obligations, which are often identified in the reports that they submit pursuant to the implementation of resolutions 1267 (1999), 1540 (2004) and 1373 (2001), could be used to determine their requirements in terms of capacity-building and support. In cases where reports are not submitted, the States concerned should be induced to produce them by making available to them the expertise of the Committees and their panels.

Hence my country deems necessary the repeated requests to States to appoint national focal points to the various Committees. It also supports the carrying out of country visits by the Committees, and the maintenance of ongoing relations with the Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva so as to ensure a liaison with capitals. That could contribute to giving new impetus to cooperation among the Committees on the one hand and among the Committees, States and regional cooperation on the other.

The combat against terrorism must be based on, inter alia, the collection and exploitation of information in order to detect and identify actors that pose a threat, identify their facilities and understand their strategies. Such work requires many skills and considerable resources and cannot be carried out in isolation. There must therefore be participation by all States. National action must therefore be supported by that of other countries and take place within the framework of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, which must be based on the exchange of experiences and expertise.

Moreover, we believe that the improvement of documents, the preliminary implementation assessment and the detailed implementation survey reflect the commitment of the 1373 Committee to learn more about the challenges facing States and their needs in order to respond appropriately thereto.

In that respect, we congratulate the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on all of the activities undertaken to that end, in particular the workshops and meetings it has convened with a view to helping certain States with respect to specific issues in order to help them better understand the phenomenon of terrorism and the means available to them to combat it.

In that connection, the workshop held in December 2012 for the countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, which Togo is currently chairing, deserves special praise. The various workshops, which were announced by the three Chairs, represent ways of building the capacities of States and regional organizations.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the tenth anniversary of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) will soon be upon us. With only a few months left until that event, which will permit us to take stock of the road travelled, it is relevant to note that the spike in terrorist activities and the proliferation of criminal groups highlight the need to give new momentum to United Nations action. That is how the international community will be able to avert the danger posed by terrorist and criminal groups, as well as non-State actors, which adapt easily to all measures to counter them and which have at their disposal considerable technological capacity and are able to acquire weapons of mass destruction and precursors for their manufacture.

Togo is especially pleased that this meeting is taking place on the eve of the Council's high-level debate on Monday on the issue of terrorism in Africa, over which Togo's President will have the honour to preside.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Menan, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month, as well as to thank you for convening this important meeting. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Chairs of the Committees for their informative briefings earlier and for their professional work.

Israel remains under constant threat from terrorist organizations. Rockets rain down on our towns and cities, launched by Hamas in the south. On our northern border, Hizbullah is exploiting the crisis in Syria to further undermine regional stability.

Israel has confronted terrorism since well before its founding. For years, terrorism was an abstract concept for many in the international community. They believed acts of terror were a limited problem best dealt with locally. Today we know that terrorism can strike anywhere at any time. It is a growth industry working around the clock to expand into new markets. Its mission is to undermine democracies, and its vision is to instil fear through violence.

Like an industry, terrorism has a business development arm devoted to money laundering and fundraising. Terrorist organizations frequently have a foot in the global narcotics market, operating networks that span from West Africa to the Middle East to Latin America.

Terrorism has a human resources division that actively recruits new members. Across the Middle East, terrorism and martyrdom are being glorified through incitement that is disseminated in schools, mosques and media outlets.

Terrorist organizations also have a well-funded marketing arm. It uses the Internet to promote every branch of the industry, from recruitment to instruction and from financing to public relations.

And of course, there is the operations division that equips followers with hateful ideology and deadly weapons.

It takes an industry to defeat an industry. Israel is working closely with many States and regional organizations to advance counterterrorism cooperation. That reflects our belief that terrorism can be effectively confronted only through international cooperation. No State should stand alone in that mission.

The counter-terrorism Committees are essential to global efforts to isolate terrorists. Israel appreciates their dedicated work, as well as that of other relevant United Nations agencies. We support all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which should be treated as a whole.

Israel commends the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) for its ongoing contributions to coordinate action against terrorism. I want to thank CTED's departing Executive Director, Mike Smith, for his many years of excellent service and leadership. We

also extend congratulations to CTED for concluding its review of Member States' implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). Israel supports every effort to make the dialogue between CTED and Member States more simple, transparent and effective.

Israel closely followed CTED's March briefing on protecting non-profit organizations from terrorist financiers. We are painfully familiar with the exploitation of seemingly charitable funds by terrorist groups. Hamas manages a wide array of groups that claim to be social services organizations. I suppose that if one considers laundering money to be a way of cleaning up the neighborhood, then that is accurate.

Israel fully supports resolution 1540 (2004) and the renewal of its mandate. Export-control systems and appropriate national counter-terrorism legislation are critical to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and dual-use items.

Finally, we welcome the recent extension of the mandate of the Ombudsperson of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and are encouraged by the recent improvements introduced in resolution 2083 (2012).

Israel is committed to sharing the knowledge and experience that comes from years of combating terrorism. Through our ongoing technical cooperation and capacity-building projects, we seek to further contribute to the international community's counter-terrorism efforts. Each year, Israel invites counter-terrorism specialists from other nations to learn about the latest technological advances and operational tactics in combating terrorism. Those efforts establish strong ties between responsible law enforcement agencies worldwide. Countering violent extremist groups requires ongoing collaboration among all of us.

In too many corners of the planet, all of the elements are in place for extremists to grow the next generation of terrorists. In this very Council, many States offer justification for certain terrorists while condemning others.

In Gaza, Iran is funding, training and arming Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other terrorists. Iran has helped Hizbullah build its arsenal to unprecedented levels in Lebanon, amassing 50,000 deadly missiles. Iranian agents have been involved in attacks from Azerbaijan to India and from Thailand to Kenya. Earlier this week, a Kenyan court sentenced two Iranians to life in prison on terror-related charges.

Now we face the frightening possibility — and I would like to emphasize this very clearly — that Hizbullah could soon get its hands on Syria's vast stockpiles of chemical weapons. The threat of game-changing weapons reaching Hizbullah is substantiated by Nasrallah himself, who yesterday said "Syria will give the resistance special weapons it never had before". The Council must act today, not tomorrow. We will not allow Hizbullah to test our resolve. Numerous judicial findings from around the world attest to the magnitude and gravity of Hizbullah's global reach. Yet, that still isn't enough for some European Union members to call Hizbullah what it is: a terrorist organization. It operates with impunity on European soil, yet some European lawmakers continue to insist that it is a social-services organization.

Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations sets out the Security Council's powers to maintain peace. There is no greater threat to international stability than those who use fundamentalism to advance their personal ideologies and agendas. It is time for the international community to unite and put terrorism out of business. The Security Council must further utilize Chapter VII to force terrorist groups to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. The failure to do so would be nothing less than moral bankruptcy.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): Let me thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor in order to speak on behalf of the group of like-minded States on targeted sanctions, namely, Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. As is well known, our group aims to support efforts by the Security Council to enhance the fairness and transparency of its various sanctions regimes, thereby contributing to their credibility and effectiveness.

We commend the concrete actions taken by the Security Council so far to address serious due-process concerns regarding the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. In particular, the Council has done the right thing by establishing and subsequently strengthening the Ombudsperson process. We would like to reiterate our full support for the work of the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberly Prost. She continues to fulfil her mandate with remarkable integrity and commitment and has made a substantial contribution to the fairness and

effectiveness of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. The fact that the Sanctions Committee has so far resolved 27 cases on the basis of her recommendations, and that 16 new cases are pending, speaks volumes about the quality of her work. The Ombudsperson process and the improved listing and de-listing procedures have significantly contributed to the accuracy and fairness of the Al-Qaida sanctions list. That has already been noted by relevant actors, such as the Advocate-General of the Court of Justice of the European Union. In his opinion on the Kadi II case, he recently considered that

> "the listing and delisting procedures within the [Al-Qaida] Sanctions Committee provide sufficient guarantees ... to presume that the decisions taken by that body are justified".

We look forward to the European Court of Justice's final ruling in that case.

The Ombudsperson process is a success story. Within a few years, it has gone from being a necessary initiative to a well-established safeguard for due process. But there is an inevitable next question: what about other sanctions regimes? How can we explain that fair and clear procedures are available to persons who have been found to be associated with the terrorist group Al-Qaida, but not to other individuals and entities who may find themselves, rightly or wrongly, on other sanctions lists? How can we explain a situation where a person delisted from the Al-Qaida list appears on another list, is subject to the sanctions of that other regime, yet deprived of any meaningful recourse to verify the rightful inclusion on that particular list?

We believe that the time has come for the Security Council to consider these questions and to improve the remedies available to individuals and entities targeted by other sanctions regimes, addressing them on a case-by-case basis. The urgent attention given to the Al-Qaida sanctions regime was justified in the light of the nature and size of its list, and in the light of numerous judicial challenges. But such challenges are also under way with respect to other sanctions regimes. More important, the underlying principles should apply across the board: every individual or entity put on a Security Council sanctions list should have the right to be informed of the reasons for listing, the right to be heard and the right to an effective remedy. Security Council sanctions regimes that grant fair and clear review procedures will benefit from improved credibility and effectiveness.

The good news is that we do not need to re-invent the wheel. We believe that the Ombudsperson process should, on a case-by-case basis, be gradually extended to other appropriate sanctions regimes, in particular those with broad criteria for listing. We are of course fully aware that each sanctions regime and its underlying political situation is unique, and that some sanctions regimes are more suitable for such an extension than others. The renewals of the Somalia and Eritrea sanctions regime in August 2013 and of the Liberia sanctions regime in December 2013 could provide useful opportunities to make such progress. We therefore respectfully call on Council members to consider that step.

In making that request, we would like to emphasize that the Ombudsperson process is ultimately a mechanism to ensure the proper implementation of Security Council decisions. Extending the mandate would not allow the Ombudsperson to question the way in which the Council designs sanctions regimes, nor to overturn the criteria for listing established by the Council. Quite to the contrary, extending the mandate would help ensure that listings under other sanctions regimes are in full conformity with the respective criteria established by the Council itself, while addressing due-process concerns that may hamper implementation by States Members of the United Nations.

The group of like-minded States would be glad to provide any assistance necessary to consider such steps, in the interest of strengthening fair and clear procedures, and in the interest of effective sanctions implementation. We look forward to a constructive engagement with the Security Council in that regard.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (*spoke in French*): I take this opportunity to congratulate you and your country, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month.

(*spoke in English*)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro,

Iceland and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Thank you very much, Mr. President, for having organized this timely and important briefing.

Let me begin by expressing our appreciation to the Committees' Chairs for their extensive updates and summaries of actions and initiatives taken during the past six months.

The recent attacks in Boston, Iraq and Libya are dreadful evidence of the fact that terrorism remains one of the major global threats. Those were unjustifiable acts of terror that serve as yet another grim reminder that the terrorist threat remains real. That is why the fight against international terrorism shall remain one of our highest priorities, just as it should continue to be a priority for the United Nations. The work of all three Committees is therefore of vital importance, as it contributes to the prevention of and the response to terrorist threats.

We are committed to the idea that the scourge of terrorism can be overcome only by democratic measures that remain in compliance with the rule of law. Terrorism needs to be fought as a crime by the law and within the law, with full respect to due process and fundamental rights. We welcome the fact that the Security Council has taken significant steps to further reinforce fair and clear procedures in the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. We take this opportunity to commend the Ombudsperson's work and reiterate our support for her unwavering efforts. We welcome the adoption of resolution 2083 (2012), which introduced some additional important changes to the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, in particular extending the mandate of the Monitoring Team and the Ombudsperson and making their work more effective and transparent. We reiterate our call on all Member States to extend full cooperation to the Office of the Ombudsperson in each and every case.

We welcome the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), in particular the vast array of counter-terrorism endeavours and activities. In the period under consideration, we participated with great interest in a number of events focused on countering the financing of terrorism — for instance, in the special meeting focused on strategies regarding preventing and suppressing terrorist financing, held in November 2012 here in New York. In the same area, we also participated in a briefing on preventing abuse of the non-profit sector for the purposes of terrorist financing, in March 2013, followed by an event one week later focused on protecting non-profit organizations from being exploited by those seeking to finance terrorism were of great importance.

With regard to State capacity-building, which is another crucial aspect of the fight against terrorism, we welcome the conference on border-control cooperation in the Sahel and the Maghreb that took place in Rabat in March and was organized by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Government of Morocco. We participated actively in that important and successful event.

As mentioned previously, we stress that all counter-terrorism efforts must comply with the rule of law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. We therefore welcome efforts aimed at underpinning that precept — for example, the event on combating terrorism and the pursuit of justice through cooperation organized by the Committee on 5 April.

Last but not least, we thank the Committee and CTED for last week's briefing on the revised documents and procedures related to the assessment of Member States' implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to counter-terrorism. It was a very useful presentation of the improvements that have been made to the organization of reports so as to render them clearer, more transparent and more useful. Like others, I wish to thank Mr. Mike Smith in particular for the positive and useful work he has been doing as head of CTED.

I would now like to share a few comments regarding the regime of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). The risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors remains a significant threat to international peace and security. We should spare no effort to increase our capacity for preventing proliferation. To that end, the work of the 1540 Committee remains of vital importance. That goal requires a truly multi-stakeholder approach. We therefore commend events such as the 1540 civil society forum on opportunities for engagement held in Austria from 8 to 10 January, as well as the Committee's conduct of 1540 workshops engaging civil society organized in Pretoria and Bangkok.

We would also like to highlight additional events organized by the Committee around the world in recent months, which include workshops in Riyadh and Minsk as well as numerous events related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence, among others, in Washington, D.C., Tokyo, Hong Kong and Rome.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegation of Saudi Arabia for organizing last month's comprehensive high-level event on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors and on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Arab world, in which we had the pleasure to participate.

I would like to conclude my statement by underlining that our resolve to defeat terrorism must never weaken or falter. All acts of terrorism are criminal and reprehensible, wherever they take place and whoever commits them. The active promotion of counter-terrorism policies and actions must therefore remain a priority for the United Nations and its States Members, as it will for us.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your leadership of the Council this month, and to thank you for convening this important meeting. I would also like to thank the Chairs of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and the Counter-Terrorism Committee for their efforts and their briefings. I also thank the various Groups of Experts for their work in the past few months.

Recent events have demonstrated the relevance of maintaining a constant alertness, in this case the appearance on Syrian territory of armed terrorist groups, some of them linked to Al-Qaida, and most of whom are transnational extremists or foreign mercenaries fighting wars for others and targeting Syria generally. Such factors hardly serve the interests of the Syrian people, who, whether they are loyalists or opponents, are proud and hope to maintain their country's stability. Terrorism — the destruction of hospitals, educational institutions, schools, universities, mosques, churches, civil aircraft and diplomatic missions, as well as the looting of factories, the kidnapping of Muslim and Christian religious leaders, the pillaging of archeological sites and cemeteries, the abduction of peacekeepers working for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force — how does that serve the interests of Syria and the Syrian people?

Two months ago, my country's Government submitted an official request for the Al-Nusra Front organization, responsible for hundreds of terrorist operations and suicide bombings in Syria, to be included on the Al-Qaida Committee's consolidated list of individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida. We are still waiting for the inclusion of that organization, whose terrorist nature has moreover been recognized by some Security Council members. It has admitted on its website that it executed 600 people in Syria over the past year — a single year.

We all know now that the spread of terrorism and extremism in Syria is happening with the blessing, and even the support, of some Council members, and is welcomed and supported by Salafist, Wahhabi and Taqfiri organizations. Some individuals claim to be leaders of counter-terrorism efforts, and there have even been nine attempts by some members of the Council to issue press statements condemning terrorist attacks that have resulted in hundreds of civilian victims in Syria. It is bizarre that no mention has been made of the fact that the Chair of the 1267 Committee, His Excellency the Ambassador of Australia, neglected to say anything in his briefing about the activities of Al-Qaida in Syria — terrorist activities of which all of us here are aware.

While over the past two years we have addressed more than 160 letters to the Security Council on the spread of terrorism in my country in order to notify members of barbarous terrorist attacks and suicide bombings in Syria — and in spite of statements and reports from the United Nations, States and Western research institutions, as well as prestigious media organizations, which have all underscored the existence of a spike in terrorist activities in Syria, and affirmed that terrorists from around the world have been flowing into Syria — to this day we have seen no practical action from the Counter-Terrorism Committee aimed at implementing measures to combat terrorism and the necessity of stemming its financing in Syria or to request accountability from States that openly support such individuals. It seems that today Syria is condemned to

be the only entity implementing resolution 1373 (2001) in a first line of defence against terrorism.

The Group of Experts of the 1373 (2001) Committee underscores in its current programme of work that it is seeking to attach greater importance to the implementation by Member States of resolution 1624 (2005) and of strategies to counter incitement to terrorist acts, wherever they may originate. In that respect, we call on the Committee to enhance the effectiveness of its work through the following measures.

First, it must put an end to the destructive role of media, supported by the Governments of certain States, in inciting to terrorism, spreading extremist ideology and deepening the secular, religious and sectarian divisions that may exacerbate the crisis in Syria and other States of the region. Secondly, it must fight the exploitation of the Internet and social networks to incite terrorism and to mislead large numbers of young people, including Americans. Thirdly, it must dry up the sources of financing for terrorist groups.

The Council, in its presidential statement of 15 January 2013 (S/PRST/2013/1), reiterated the need for Member States to refrain from providing any form of direct or indirect support to entities or individuals participating in or in any way linked to terrorist attacks, by, for instance, preventing the recruitment of members into terrorist groups and prohibiting the provision of weapons to terrorists.

In that respect, I would refer to the final report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1973 (2011), published as the annex to document S/2013/99, on the participation of Arab and regional States in transferring weapons and mercenaries from Libya to Syria. I call on the Security Council to take all necessary measures in that respect without delay. States that arm, finance, train or facilitate the travel of elements from armed terrorist groups to Syria or provide them with safe haven are accomplices to terrorist attacks and responsible for bloodshed in Syria. Their actions not only fly in the face of Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, but directly negate resolutions 2042 (2012) and 2043 (2012) and the Geneva communiqué, which all affirm the need to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Syrian crisis through a Syrian-led political process.

Member States have always affirmed the need to ensure that weapons of mass destruction do not fall into the hands of terrorists, and have tasked the 1540 Committee with monitoring and coordinating related efforts to ensure that States uphold the provisions of the resolution by refraining from supporting terrorists or possessing or producing weapons of mass destruction.

It is striking that some Member States, including permanent members of the Council and members of the Committee, are attempting to hinder follow-up to the Syrian Government's request to send a neutral technical mission under the auspices of the Secretary-General to investigate cases of the use by terrorist groups of chemical substances against civilians and military in the Khan al-Assal area of Syria. I would also like to reiterate the Syrian Government's willingness to host a technical commission of inquiry on the incident at Khan al-Assal, pursuant to the memorandum conveyed in the letter dated 3 April, addressed to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

Concerning the issue of Israel, on Sunday, 5 May, military and civilian positions were targeted in Damascus in yet another demonstration of the direct link existing between the terrorist policies of Israel and the activity of terrorist groups and foreign mercenaries, who targeted several military positions simultaneously with the Israeli incursions. The statements issued by several countries encouraged Israel to launch that aggression. The Security Council must shoulder its responsibility to condemn that incident and to ensure that States that support terrorists are held accountable for their attacks on Syria, cease their destructive practices and uphold their agreements under international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

I will provide the Council with the full text of my statement.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Umemoto (Japan): I would like to express my appreciation for the dedicated efforts of each of the Chairs of the Council's three counter-terrorism-related Committees in preparing their respective briefings.

Through many measures taken by the relevant agencies, the fight against terrorism has made steady progress at the United Nations. However, it remains deeply troubling that terrorist attacks persist, some of which have taken place recently in areas such as South Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and the Sahel.

The terrorist attack in In Amenas, Algeria, and the latest tragedy at the Boston marathon have shown us the necessity of increasing efforts to promote the fight against terrorism. In that regard, Japan expects the three committees to coordinate and cooperate closely with Member States and conduct constructive discussions and effective and efficient activities on counter-terrorism measures.

Ten Japanese citizens were killed by the attack in In Amenas. There is no excuse for violence against innocent people. We condemn such abject terrorism. In reaction to the incident, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Fumio Kishida, announced three areas of focus for our foreign policy. Japan will strengthen international counter-terrorism measures; support the stabilization of the regions of the Sahel, North Africa and the Middle East; and promote dialogue and exchanges with Islamic and Arab States. On the basis of that policy, we will take various measures.

Japan will take active part in the international efforts to counter terrorism, not only in the framework of the United Nations but also through the Group of Eight and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. We hope that the visit to Japan planned by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), led by its Executive Director, will further deepen the existing cooperation between CTED and Japan.

In order to ensure the legitimacy and credibility of United Nations counter-terrorism measures, unceasing efforts in that regard must be made by all three Committees. For example, it is important to keep updating the sanction lists to reflect the current status of individuals and entities. Japan will continue to work closely with the Ombudsperson and the Monitoring Team with that objective in mind.

With respect to the United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, Japan understands the need to establish that post in order to ensure consistency and integrity in the field of counter-terrorism at the United Nations. We should make every effort to pursue true effectiveness and efficiency in counter-terrorism measures at the United Nations through the creation of that position.

Japan continues to attach great importance to preventing the proliferation of goods and technologies related to weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). We have been working closely with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to strengthen regional and global efforts to better regulate the export and border control of WMD-related materials. Japan invited the 1540 Committee expert group to the regional initiatives it has taken, namely, the twentieth export control seminar of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held from 26 to 28 February, and the ninth Asian senior-level talks on non-proliferation, held on 14 March.

Such collaboration with the 1540 Committee has provided an important opportunity to participants in the region. They were able not only to exchange information on effective ways to implement relevant Security Council resolutions on WMD non-proliferation, but also to understand the recent trend in the illicit transfer of goods and technologies now emerging throughout the world. Japan will continue to actively support other Member States in their efforts.

Turning our attention to the work of the 1540 Committee itself, we welcome the strong emphasis placed by the Chair on outreach and partnership with relevant stakeholders. We commend the Chair's efforts to strengthen the Committee's work by the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the resolution next year. We support the focus placed by the four working groups under the Committee, and we understand that respective groups are making efforts to produce tangible outcomes. Japan strongly hopes that their activities will become more visible to all Member States, as they need to have a strong sense of ownership in advancing the objectives set forth in the resolution.

As a way of nurturing the ties between the Member States and the 1540 Committee in order to tackle the challenge of WMD non-proliferation, the Permanent Mission of Japan will organize the fifth seminar on non-proliferation and disarmament in New York on 10 June, partnering with the Missions of Poland and Turkey. Japan will continue to cooperate positively in order to ensure that the three Committees can continuously and fully carry out their roles.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Moura (Portugal): I congratulate you, Sir, and your country on your presidency of the Security Council this month.

I thank the Chairs of the Security Council's subsidiary committees on counter-terrorism for their comprehensive briefings. I am also pleased to address a

special word to Mike Smith, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and to wish him all the best in the future.

We naturally associate ourselves with the statement delivered a few minutes ago by the observer of the European Union. I should, however, like to add a few comments.

First, preventing and countering terrorism continues to be one of the main and more pressing challenges to the international community as a whole, and to the United Nations in particular. Solid international cooperation, on the one hand, and the full implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism international legal instruments, on the other, are indeed crucial elements of a harmonized and effective response of the international community to the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The United Nations is singularly well placed to play the key role of coordinating, supporting and pushing forward the global international efforts in this endeavour to address the threats and actions of terrorism through the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies, the General Assembly and its relevant bodies, and other United Nations entities, at both the Headquarters and field levels. Surely, much has been done already, as we should recognize, but in our opinion there is room for improvement on specific elements of the counter-terrorism strategies as they stand now.

As Portugal has consistently stated in previous briefings of the Security Council, more attention should be given, first, to enhancing the United Nations preventive counter-terrorism approaches and agenda; secondly, to improving and more efficiently articulating all relevant United Nations system tools, both in New York and at the field level; and, finally, to addressing the need to reinforce the compliance of national, regional and international counter-terrorism efforts with human rights and rule of law standards. Those, among others, are key aspects that we believe should to be solidly implemented in order to address the evolving nature of the terrorist threat, its ability to spread into different areas of the world, its intertwinement and increasing connection with forms of transnational organized crime, and its capacity to promote radicalization and recruitment in a global context.

At the local and regional levels, we believe that further preventive action should be considered namely in regions such as West, Central and East Africa, where emerging or potentially emerging challenges should be further addressed, for example, through more and better United Nations information sharing and assessment survey capabilities.

I conclude by commending once again the work of the Ombudsperson's Office within the framework of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011). The Ombudsperson's very valuable contribution to implementing fair and clear procedures for delisting with respect to that Committee should, in our opinion, also be made available in the framework of other relevant Security Council sanctions Committees, thereby opening the way to an even more credible, transparent and fair management of their respective sanctions lists.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no more speakers inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.